

TOP SECRET

852-CRIWU

6 March 1951

SUBJECT: Letter from Team

TO : Chief, FJGape
Washington, D. C.

INFO: Chief, FJGape

ATTN : []

1. Another letter has been received from Identity (1) team, through the JBRMALM source. The letter was dated 14 February. A copy of the translation is attached, with []'s comments.
2. The contents of the letter stated that the friend through whom the letters have been sent died on 7 February, of natural causes, and that he is being replaced by another trusted person.
3. The letter was addressed jointly to [], [] and [], and the team has asked for the truth as to where they stand. To quote this section of the letter verbatim, "We don't need encouragements or praises. We want the truth - to know where we stand. Death for us is just like smoking a cigarette, and you must be sure that we aren't afraid. As for our surrender, for the time being it's impossible. You know that among us there are two men who have fought and killed natives of TPROACH with their own hands." (Editor's note: Identity (2), Malament element from Identity (3), and Identity (4), [] man from Identity (5).)
4. The letter goes on to state that the team members will remain where they are until clear instructions and the aims of the HTNEIGH operation are defined. According to the writer's informant, the whole tone of this letter is one of impatience with the HTNEIGH.
5. I have informed [] that, under the circumstances, I do not wish to have the matter brought to the attention of HTNEIGH and that, pending instructions from my people, he is to await further word from the writer.

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6. For your information, Identity (6) (the W/T operator we have been trying to get out of a KMULCER jail in order that he could join this team) is not going to be released by the KMULCERS, at least for the present. Proceedings have been started and his trial is scheduled for late March or early April. Strauss informs me that it is possible that he will be released to us after the trial, but that will be too late for him to be of assistance to Identity (1) team. (Special note to [] In view of this, the operation planned for Identity (6) rescue must be forgotten for the moment.)

7. Once the plight of this team becomes known by HTNEIGH members, it is my belief it will become a topic of much conversation and will do harm to the overall effort. For that reason, it is proposed that immediate action of one sort or another be taken and that HTNEIGH be appraised of the situation only when that plan for action has been formulated. We seem to be faced with these alternatives:

a. Find someone else in place of Identity (6) whom we can get in quickly, along with equipment and instructions, or

b. Arrange a sea rescue in cooperation with the ZECROWNS. (Possibility of this action was discussed by [] and [] when [] and [] were in BGBIDDY in early January.)

8. The possibility of surrender to the TPROACHS appears to me to be out of the question. In their letter the team members stated, "To surrender can only be done when we see one of you or an official document given by you to someone on mission who must come and fetch us. Then maybe it will be possible to surrender. Otherwise, we have decided to die where we are." To order them to retire from this operation would, in my opinion, do much harm to the morale of those concerned with this entire endeavor. In their letter the team members state, "If you give orders to retire, then we will endeavor ourselves either to escape or save our own beings."

9. In view of the above (and until further instructions are received by the writer), I am instructing [] to dispatch immediately a letter to the team stating that they are not forgotten, that they are to continue their activities to the best of their ability under present difficulties, and that as soon as aid can be got to them such steps will be taken. This letter will be signed by [] and he will state that it is not possible to take the matter up with the HTNEIGH members because [], [] and Malament are all out of TPCREDO -- that the men who trained them and planned their operations are giving every attention to the situation and they need have no concern, etc., etc., etc.

Attach: Under Separate Cover

APPROVED: []
Chief of Station

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Attachment to 852-CRIWU

NEWS OF IDENTITY (1) TEAM

As answer to our last letter sent through Belgrade on the 1st February 1951, we received one dated 14 February 1951.

(For the first time the letter has been addressed to three people: George, Zef, Said, aiming that the case be discussed by the NCPA. Mike, AK and I had thought it safer not to discuss the matter in the Committee, not to alarm them. I think it better to keep it secret until I receive new instructions.)

"We have understood the contents of your letter.

"Our first friend through which we sent our letters and received yours died on the 7th February. He has been replaced by _____ the grandfather of Hysen. He is a safe person and the letters or the man who may come should be sent only to him.

"We don't need encouragements or praises, we want the truth to know how we stand. Death for us is just smoking a cigarette. You must be sure that we aren't afraid. For what concerns our surrender, for the time being it is impossible, we will remain where we are until we receive clear instructions and the aim of your operations. If you give orders to retire, then we will see by ourselves either to escape or save our beings.

"Do you know that among us there are two men who have fought and killed with their own hands natives of this country?

"To surrender can only be done thus when we will see one of you or an official document given by you to someone on mission, who must come and fetch us, then maybe it will be possible to surrender, otherwise we are decided to die where we are.

"What Ramadan wrote is true, we have found another shelter and await the man who must bring us instructions.

"Nobody from the team or our common friends endured anything but we are always afraid that something might happen.

"Alush Leshanaku there was a failure.

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"In all the Northern region there are big operations; all the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier is mined by Hoxha. We did not have a harsh winter and up to now there was no snow in Kukes.

"We are expecting the man.

Yours,

H.N., R.C., M.P., R.B.

"Awaiting your answer."

M.P. is Identity (2), BK element from Jakova (unknown in the region where he was landed.) In Jakova his brother was killed, and he too has killed many enemies who are awaiting to take their revenge.

R.B. is Identity (4), from Peja, man of SK (unknown where he was landed) fought the Yugoslavs, has many enemies, searched man.

These are the reasons why they can't surrender.

ACTIVITIES OF Identity (1) TEAM

They have enlarged the number of friends; ensured many channels; ensured bases; made verbal agreements with friends from Luma and Has (40-50 villages and their chiefs); ensured elements who may get out.

In LUMA there are no communists except:

1. Shaqir BULICA and all his relatives;
2. The house of ALUSE AGA;
3. Rifat SPAHIA;
4. Aziz MURAD;
5. The family of SUL ASLLANI;
6. The SHEHU'S of the BICAJ village.

In HAS:

Only one Communist house the one of ISMAIL POGA. Very strong!