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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

21 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

On 10 October 1967 the undersigned received a telephone call from Mr. Orme Wilson, Jr., the Yugoslav Desk Officer for the Department of State, requesting information on Destan BERISHA. Mr. Wilson stated that Congressman Silvio Conte (R-Mass) was interested in the Berisha case since Berisha was from his state and that for this reason he (Wilson) would like the particulars of Berisha's involvement with this Agency. On 12 October I hand-carried copies of a transcript of the charges against Berisha to Mr. Wilson's office and proceeded to brief him on the details of when, and in what capacity we had employed Berisha. In reply to some rather sharp comments and questions on Wilson's part pertaining to Agency responsibility and the wisdom of our allowing one of our ex-agents to travel back to the country of his former nationality, it was pointed out that: (1) The Agency has no means of preventing the travel of any US citizen, (2) There had been no Agency contact with Berisha for almost 13 years, (3) That Berisha's travel to Yugoslavia was of his own volition and completely unknown to us, and (4) That at the time of his termination from the Agency, he was assessed by us as being mentally unsuitable for sponsorship for US citizenship. Berisha ultimately achieved his citizenship through military service in the US Army. This little lecture was concluded with a disclaimer of any responsibility by the Agency for Berisha or his problems. Mr. Wilson acceded in essence to the validity of our argument but ventured a further proposal that the Agency compile a listing of all ex-agents who have attained US citizenship for passage to the passport section of the State Department. Such a list would serve to spot cases of potential embarrassment to the US Government and would afford State officials the opportunity to counsel passport applicants on the hazards of returning to their native land. It was agreed that the idea had merit but lacked practicality since State cannot refuse to issue passports and it would be almost beyond our capabilities to compile such a list.

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