

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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9 NOV 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: RQM/DB

ATTENTION: []

SUBJECT: Destan Berisha

1. Berisha intended to marry a Greek girl of Orthodox faith in Athens, Greece. The mother of the girl consented to the marriage, but withdrew her consent at a later date when she learned that Berisha is a Moslem. In order to prevent the marriage from taking place, the mother took her case to Major Nikolopoulos, the Chief of the Athens Aliens Directorate. She told the Major that Berisha had raped her daughter and that she wanted him arrested and made to stand trial. (The Major explained to the case officer that the charge of rape can be brought against any man who is responsible for a Greek minor losing her virginity, even though the girl gives her consent.) The Major believing that the mother was primarily interested in preventing the marriage, told her that Berisha was taken into custody and was to be expelled as an undesirable alien. The mother expressed satisfaction with this action and dropped the case at this point.

2. Berisha should not be returned to Greece for the following reasons:

a. The Greeks would not permit him to re-enter because they fear a public trial of Berisha on charges which the mother can and would bring against him.

b. Should Berisha be flown in "black" it is logical to assume that he would attempt contact with the girl and the Greeks would learn of his presence in Greece.

c. Should Berisha attempt to return to Greece on his own initiative, he is subject to arrest and would be made to stand trial.

d. The girl cannot marry Berisha without her mother's consent because she is a minor and should she elope with him, he can be held on an additional charge.

e. According to Berisha, the girl is willing to become a Moslem, but the mother will not permit it. Berisha has told the case officer that he would not embrace the Orthodox faith.

f. Berisha is presently married to a woman who resides in Jugoslavia; he would be subject to arrest on an additional count if he married the Greek girl.

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3. In the opinion of the Division, Berisha should not be sent to the Albanian guard company unless he agrees with that course of action. Otherwise, he will become a serious problem for the guard company.

4. The [] attempted to re-settle Berisha through the PEP program, but the attempt was not successful. Resettlement through PEP, however, does not appear to be the solution in this disposal case. DTROBALO is prepared to resettle Berisha in a South American country, but the latter insists on being returned to Greece.

5. As a possible solution to this problem, this Division recommends that the case officer, [] be permitted to speak with Berisha in an effort to persuade him to accept resettlement in Latin America. The case officer believes this course of action may help because of the past close relationship which existed between him and Berisha. If Berisha refuses resettlement, the case officer would explain that we have no choice but to cast him adrift, perhaps giving him a small subsidy--say \$50.00 a month--for a few months to help him get started and then let him shift for himself. He would be told that in this case he would be almost as badly off as he would be if he ever attempted to return to Greece. It would be made very clear to him that, if he did return to Greece, he could expect to be tried on charges of rape and/or bigamy, after which he would probably spend long years in prison. He would be told that his cooperation in working toward resettlement in Latin America is the only sensible course, and the only one in which he can count on our help.

6. If WH concurs with the recommendation in paragraph 5 above, it is our understanding that the expenses involved will be charged to DTROBALO.

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Chief, SE

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