

OB DURATE/B

AIR POUCH

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REFINANCE
KAPOK Italy-4727

Chief WE

1 August 1955

Senior Representative, []

SRAM/OB DURATE

Field Review

- Refs :
- 1) DIR-09916, 22 June 1955
 - 2) [] [], 7 June 1955
 - 3) [] [] (KAPOK #4693)

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DATE 2007

A. Introduction. Dual []
 [] Nature of OB DURATE.

1. The brief report which follows will attempt to bring into focus the various facets of the Albanian activities which are rather loosely lumped under the Plan OB DURATE heading. Unfortunately, the case load situation of the outside unit handling OB DURATE makes it impossible to submit detailed periodic ready-reference roundups of undertakings in the Albanian field. The basic and progressing operational aspects of such activities will therefore have to be read from materials submitted from day to day; these attempt to report events of interest and to define significant trends, situations and general operational climate as they develop.
2. For the general purposes of first Reference and, more particularly, the fiscal purposes of second Reference, OB DURATE will first be examined below within the framework of its present monthly budget of [] [] Italian Lire, the figure at which it will be funded through 31 August 1955 in accordance with the terms of second Reference. Its projected future course will be taken up under Section D below.
3. OB DURATE in its essence, it is felt, must be regarded as that operation for which we are paying in terms of Dollars spent. On that basis, then, the operation has a dual nature, one phase being the joint one with DEEP-SEA at a monthly cost of [] [] Italian Lire. The other phase is

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represented by our monthly payment of 200,000 Lire to □ □, of which □ □ □ □ are unaware.

4. This monthly payment to □ □ was set up for reasons fully covered in the field dispatch recommending the procedure. The consideration involved, regarded as still valid, was and is that □ □ represents BOFINESSE's voice of authority. In brief, his requests, desires and pressures keep □ □ at his OGDURATE writing and reporting tasks; his instructions spark and, in a sense, legitimize for the individuals concerned such activities as the ERAJA effort against MERSINI; and the prestige of his name and person represents a focal point towards which refugees and refuge information gravitate.

B. OGDURATE at Level of DERFSEA Liaison.

5. **Intrinsic Aspect of □ □ Maintenance and Exploitation of BOFINESSE Assets.**

At the DERFSEA level, the operation consists basically of joint maintenance and exploitation of BOFINESSE assets. An operational apartment-office, physically occupied by □ □ and, up to 26 July 1955, by □ □ who act as caretakers-guards-errand boys-clerk typists, is maintained. In it □ □, the articulate and literate arm of BOFINESSE prepares the reports submitted under the operation. The materials produced by this set-up and the mechanisms involved are a matter of record; their additional coverage here would merely be repetitive.

6. This installation will be shut down within the month of August 1955. Continuation of the general effort will be handled along the lines described under section B below.

7. **Liaison Significance, Incidental Advantages of OGDURATE.**

In its logical extension this basic liaison aspect of OGDURATE serves as a sort of springboard for a broader and far more profitable coverage of the Albanian picture. Our financial support of the BOFINESSE reporting mechanism through □ □, in addition to eliciting the basic product involved, points up to □ □ □ □ our interest in general Albanian affairs, legitimizes our probing deeper along such lines, and gives us a form of restricted implicit right to share in the product of other DERFSEA Albanian operations.

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8. Our longstanding association with DEEPSEA in Albanian espionage also supplies an incidental, extremely important general cover for our independent Albanian activities. We thus enjoy a sort of built-in gasket to prevent blowbacks from other Liaison quarters which might otherwise more actively resent our interest and activities in the Albanian field.

9. □ □ Contact with □ □

At the liaison level of OBDURATE the sole working contact is with □ □. In this connection, it would undoubtedly be well for the desk personnel concerned to be given opportunity to read that part of third Reference which evaluates □ □'s professional and personal qualities, and describes the general liaison climate of his office.

10. Listing Full Range DEEPSEA Albanian Coverage.

Headquarters is fully aware that the full range of regular Albanian coverage by DEEPSEA extends far beyond the strict limits of OBDURATE itself. As all aspects of the Albanian picture are handled with □ □ within the general framework of the over-all effort, however, this range of coverage is briefly listed below:

- a. The regular run of OBDURATE production stemming from □ □.
- b. Vessel descriptions and photographs, passenger lists and movements, crew lists, cargo information, etc., regarding Albanian vessels calling at Italian ports.
- c. Reporting and photo coverage of Albanian ports and coastal areas by agents-observers aboard Italian merchant vessels dispatched for the purpose by DEEPSEA's Bari representative.
- d. Reporting and photo coverage of Albanian ports and coastal areas by agents observers aboard vessels engaged in the Plan LARNICA effort.
- e. Exploitation and development of DEEPSEA assets with the Italian Legation in Tirane.
- f. Attempted defection of crews of Albanian merchant vessels calling at Italian ports. As has been previously reported, some progress in this direction is apparently being made in the case of the master of the MS MESAPLIKU.

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g. Targets of opportunity coming to DEEPSEA attention, such as the [] - [] [] contact reported in [] [] (KAPOK #4577).

h. LAURICIE/LAYOVER.

11. Liaison Necessity for Continuing OGDURATE.

From this listing of Albanian assets, some stemming from other joint operations, some being shared with us as they emerge from DEEPSEA's own undertakings, it is apparent that OGDURATE in its strictest terms is by comparison a somewhat negligible producer. In that connection, however, it is repeated that a most important consideration must continue to be borne in mind: Plan CHARITY-OGDURATE has long represented our Albanian merry-go-round in DEEPSEA quarters; and, although under [] []'s regime we have succeeded in more firmly grasping the brass rings above listed, we should not step off the OGDURATE carousel entirely. Circumstances nevertheless do permit of a certain amount of financial pruning at the DEEPSEA level, and of a reallocation of funds for increased effort in other directions.

C. OGDURATE at Extra-DEEPSEA Level.

12. Independent Contact with BOPREFIX Represents [] Operation with DEEPSEA.

Outside the DEEPSEA framework, OGDURATE consists essentially of our independent liaison with the BOPREFIX directive circle. It will be realized by Headquarters that from the DEEPSEA-OGDURATE point of view [] [] this activity constitutes a [] [] [] At this point it would no longer be regarded so harshly, but [] []'s predecessors would unhesitatingly have defined it as such.

13. Unilateral Assets Stemming From Independent Contact with BOPREFIX Directive Circle.

The liaison with BOPREFIX permits us to keep better check on the general temperature of Albanian activities and personalities. It also gives us access to items of information which BOPREFIX, for security, prestige or other reasons does not pass on to DEEPSEA. Among such items, to give a few examples, are (1) knowledge of [] []

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and [] are generally present; on special full-dress occasions [] , too, attends. Greetings are always exchanged with [] and [] who, however, are not present at conversations. Occasional meetings are held with [] alone outside the BOFREFIX office; these are for such special purposes as reporting his contacts with MERSINI.

b. []

A separate monthly meeting is held with [] for the sole purpose of passing to him the sum allotted for []'s use. A single meeting with [] was held approximately a year ago at []'s home for the purpose of laying on this particular procedure. Another similar meeting will be held early in the coming fall for the purpose of explaining to [] the projected revision in amount of the payment.

c. Ekrem Bey VLORA.

Meetings take place only when specific information is desired, or for the mere purpose of protecting and nurturing the association; they are not held more frequently than five-six times per year, and take place in []'s automobile, at []'s home or in public restaurants.

d. DECADAL.

Meetings take place as his information or opinion is needed, or as he comes into possession of information which he feels should be submitted to us. On occasion these meetings take place as often as two-three times per week; at other times three-four weeks will pass without contact. Meetings are held in []'s automobile, at his home or at public cafes and restaurants.

e. Ilias KRAJA.

As is fully covered in KAPOK materials, KRAJA's presentation to [] was made by []. Meetings, always in []'s automobile, were previously held on a regular once-weekly basis, with additional meetings as necessary to debrief KRAJA on his conversations with MERSINI. Now that the latter has broken off the contact, meetings with KRAJA are held once every other week.

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f. []

[] was presented at []'s request by DECADAL. It was felt at the time that he could be a useful general reporter and leg man, and at one point meetings were frequent. As []'s residence is at Senigallia, however, keeping him in Rome is more expensive than his general production would warrant. He is now seen only when he comes to Rome on his own business, or when he is called here for special purposes. Most recently [] was used to scrape the lees of the empty [] - [] barrel through [] .

g. []

At his own request, [] was presented by DECADAL to [] following his return to Italy. It was desired thus to express appreciation of []'s contribution to Plan CHARITY, and to establish and nurture a potentially useful contact. Meetings are held in []'s automobile once every two-four weeks for that purpose.

h. Iner SHARRA.

[]'s 1927-28 acquaintance with SHARRA was renewed through DECADAL in late 1954 or early 1955. This was done for the purpose of establishing a potentially useful contact with a man whose political importance appears to be increasing. The total of four-five meetings held with him to date have all been in DECADAL's company at out-of-the-way restaurants or cafes.

i. Mentor GOKU.

GOKU, though believed to be reliably anti-Communist, is something of an intelligence tramp and professional refugee. As reported at the time, contact with him was established at his own request several years ago when he attempted to peddle us his favorite project: the allegedly possible defection in place of Myulin PEEA. The contact is now maintained for the general purpose of keeping GOKU "grounded" and for picking up whatever information he has to offer. Meetings over dinner take place every two-three months.

D. Projected Future Handling.

17. General Considerations.

Under the projected form of future handling of OGDURATE, it is foreseen that we shall continue to receive practically the same direct product from the basic project as in the past. Owing to ☐ ☐'s withdrawal there will undoubtedly be a slight falling off in quantity and breadth of coverage of minor day-to-day manifestation of the local Albanian bazaar. This falling off will refer only to marginal aspects, however, and is unimportant in view of the practically complete coverage being submitted by the overhauled and capably case-officered ☐ ☐ and by the able and reliable ☐ ☐ of OBLONG.

18. Under the terms of the agreement with ☐ ☐ we shall nevertheless be assured of receiving information concerning his and his party's activities at levels not generally tapped by other sources. We shall continue to enjoy the present degree of participation in BHEPSEKA's entire range of Albanian effort. And, most importantly, we shall be concretely demonstrating to BHEPSEKA our continuing interest in Albanian affairs and our intention to stand by old friends.

19. In essence, then, the question is not so much one of revised handling of the Project as it is of formalizing already existing aspects by including them within OGDURATE's regular budget framework. For that reason the various foreseen phases of its future are discussed below under what might be considered budgetary headings.

20. Shutdown of BOPREFIX Operational Office, Continuation of ☐ ☐ Reporting.

At a meeting with ☐ ☐ and ☐ ☐ in late May 1955, ☐ ☐ indicated his desire to withdraw to some extent from his exposed position as BOPREFIX's chief political adviser, and to curtail his handling of lower level reporting on behalf of OGDURATE. As the principal reason for this withdrawal, he stated he wished to be able to dedicate more time to his own literary and scholarly pursuits. It is possible, too, that the lumps he received as a result of Albania Libre's publication of the Shero BEQIRI letters and Flamuri's publication of the document allegedly originating with BKI were a contributing factor.

21. Although implementation of []'s decision involves shutting down the BOFFERDSE operational apartment-office, he explicitly stated he would continue to prepare any special reports we might request of him. He also promised that as a matter of duty to his country's best interests he would keep us fully apprised of his own political activities and of any significant information coming to his knowledge. To crystallize this expressed intention, [] was told that he would receive a monthly payment of 50,000 Lire for his efforts.
22. Evidence of the [] spark plug role mentioned earlier, [] left it to [] to inform [] of our decision to effect the cut-back as a result of our own operational Requirements and, incidentally, because of our awareness of []'s wishes to devote more time to his own activities. The decision was presented to [] in those terms at a full dress meeting held in late June 1955.
23. As soon as it will be possible to liquidate contract commitments, then, the operational apartment will be shut down. In the meantime, [] left Italy for the United States on 26 July 1955 as an immigrant. On 22 July [] met briefly with him, gave him a farewell speech of appreciation for his faithful past collaboration, lectured him on the privileges and duties of the American citizenship to which he aspires, and presented him with a \$100 liquidation bonus.
24. Continuation [] Payment.
- As mentioned above, the reasons for keeping [] on the payroll are considered to be valid still. At the same time, the liquidation of the BOFFERDSE reports office and the withdrawal of [] make logical a general cut back all along the line. It is therefore proposed to continue payment to [] at the reduced rate of 100,000 Lire per month.
25. Material Assistance []
- At the instance of [], and moved by his own sense of responsibility, [] has undertaken a commitment to pay [] 25,000 Lire per month until he can be recovered from Yugoslavia. During the course of his Plan CHARITY mission [] was seriously wounded in a fire fight and still carries bullets in his body. In addition he has since contracted tuberculosis. Despite the unfortunate state of his health, [] has been unable to obtain the medical attention he urgently

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31. Under the revised budget proposed above, the monthly total would be \$544, a saving of \$256, as recapitulated below:

a. Salary ☐ ☐	Lire	50,000
b. ☐ ☐ payment	Lire	100,000
c. ☐ ☐ payment	Lire	25,000
d. DECADAL rental	Lire	40,000
e. firano agent		\$100.00
f. KRAJA escrow		<u>\$100.00</u>

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Prepared by:

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1 August 1955

Distribution:

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