

SECURITY INFORMATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Albanian Project (BOFIEND)

REFERENCE: Memorandum to ADPC from ADD(P), dated 11 October 1951
T.S.#62589

1. Purpose of the Project: Approved 22 June 1949, BOFIEND was originally conceived to have as its minimum objective the reduction of Albanian capabilities for supporting guerrilla activities against Greece and its maximum objective the overthrow of the Albanian regime. The cessation of the Greek civil war and the intensification of Soviet pressures against Yugoslavia, and other international developments affecting the Balkans have necessitated a continuing review of U. S. objectives with regard to Albania. As recently as 8 August 1951, OPC reviewed the objectives of the Albanian operation with representatives of the Department of State. At this meeting it was jointly agreed that OPC should:

(a) Expand its operations to permit the infiltration and support of a total of approximately 50 agents in Albania by the end of 1951 and to maintain the agent strength at this level. These agents will be used for developing resistance groups, organizing safe-houses, gathering operational intelligence and other related tasks.

(b) Continue its psychological warfare program with the proviso that leaflet drops would be cleared individually with the Department of State except for drops of small quantities of leaflets used to camouflage other operations.

(c) Fortify the psychological warfare program with black broadcasts.

(d) Explore further certain follow-through operations to support the PW program such as the air-dropping of small sacks of white flour or other supplies.

(e) Create a cadre of approximately 500 trained Albanian personnel who could be held in reserve to form the nucleus of a U. S. dominated resistance force to be activated in Albania in any of several possible situations such as the following:

(1) In the event it becomes ~~U. S. policy to encourage~~ and bring about a revolution to ~~overthrow the present~~ Communist regime.

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(2) In the event it is desired to maintain U. S. influence in Albania under the conditions which would develop as a result of Yugoslav-sponsored efforts to overthrow the current Albanian regime. Such a revolution would probably result in Greek intervention and the general situation may take on such a character as to make it particularly desirable to have an American-controlled and sponsored force in the picture to justify and permit the exertion of American influence in the complicated position which would develop.

(3) In the event of Greek and Yugoslav invasion of Albania, when the presence of an American-sponsored controlled "buffer" force may help to control the situation. *would*

(f) Exercise such control over the resistance elements as to preclude engagement in para-military or guerrilla ~~without~~ *activities* specific authorization.

2. Budget: Original Allocation
Expended or Obligated
Requested for FY 1952

[]

3. Status of Operations:

(a) Political Warfare - The National Committee for a Free Albania has ~~been established as~~ *proven to the* one of the few NCFE committees which can be considered functionally effective. The ~~committee~~ *C* has acquired considerable prestige inside Albania and is recognized in the West as the leading spokesman for the anti-Communist Albanian people.

(b) Psychological Warfare - Leaflet and cartoon airdrops over Albania were initiated in October 1950. The U. K. also participated in this program, making alternate drops of printed material in the name of the NCFE. It is reliably confirmed that this campaign has had a wide impact on the Albanian people. On 18 September 1951 Radio Free Europe with their transmitters and studios in Greece began regular gray broadcasts to Albania in the name of NCFE.

(c) Agent Operations - An indigenous personnel pool maintained in Western Germany through which potential agents are processed for covert training in Germany. Sixteen OPG agents are now operating in Albania with the necessary W/T equipment. *a smart*

Insert
Unfortunately, a number of these have since been reported

~~as captured.~~

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h. Adverse Effects of Curtailing the Operations: Abandonment or substantial reduction of the present scope of SOFIEND would:

(a) Tend to negate the propaganda gains already achieved in Albania;

(b) Gravely undermine the prestige the NCFA and the entire National Committee mechanism;

(c) Discredit U. S. intentions toward parallel refugee movements;

(d) Relinquish the field in Albania, and by implication in the Balkans, to the competing Yugoslavs, Greeks, Italians, and British;

(e) Sacrifice a program now nearing completion for the establishment of paramilitary assets which could play a substantial military and political role in the Balkans area.

Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

EE-1/TPS/CAC/sb
26 October 1951

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