

DL/P Project Approval Sheet

Project Cryptonym

~~OBOPUS~~

Assignment No.

Sub-Project Cryptonym

OB TEST

Originating Division

SE

Approved ~~Disapproved~~



16 July '54
LWS

Comments: * Project renewal for FY '55 per CSI 234-1 approved

in the amount of ϵ subject to the availability of funds.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 382B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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SENIOR STAFF PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. Identification

a. Project Cryptonym: **OBTEST**

d. Division **SE**

b. Sub-project Cryptonym:

e. Branch: **1**

c. Amendment No.

f. Desk: **Albania**

2. STAFF COORDINATION

	Element	Signature	Copy#	Date	Date of Memorandum	
a.	DD/P-Adm(R&C)		1	3 June		
b.	C-DD/P-Adm		1	24 June		
c.	DD/P-C/I&R		1	9 June		
d.	PP/Radio		2	17 June 54		
e.	PP/ICD		2	24 June 54	✓	
f.	PP/P&O/PR		3	17 June 54		
g.	COMMO		Signed Division Clearance Sheet, Copy # 1 9 June 54			
h.	C-PP/P&O		1	15 July 54		
i.						
j.						
k.						
l.						
m.						

3. Concurred in and Forwarded to DD/P by

10 July 54
Date

Conditions: (This space reserved for P and DD/P-Admin)

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PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1.		C/SE-1		24 May 1954
				Date
2.		SE/CPP		24 May 1954
3.		SE/CAL		25 May 1954
4.		SE/PI/CE		25 May 54
5.	o	C/SE		26 May 54
6.		FI/Plans/Cover	o	28 May 54
7.		STC	o	9 June 54
8.		COMMO	o	9 June 54
9.		PF/OPS		
10.		CPP		
11.		DDP/ADMIN		
12.		DDP		

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Project Cryptonym or Subject: OBTEST

Sub-Project Cryptonym or Identification: None

Amendment No. None

Originating Division: SE

a. Division Chief:		Ext 2445
b. Branch Chief :		Ext 671
c. Case Officer :		Ext 671

Target Area: Albania

Type of Project: PP

Financial Mechanism: Direct purchase of service

Funds Requested: C D

Current Status: Approved as BGFRIEND 22 June 1949 by ADPC

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1. OBJECTIVE:

The aim of project OBTEST is to further the PP mission of CIA against Albania by means of clandestine radio broadcasts of a propaganda nature.

2. ORIGIN and POLICY GUIDANCE:

- a. Origin. BGFIEND Project Outline approved 22 June 1949 by ADPC.
OPC Country Plan for Albania.
PW Annex to BGFIEND, 10 October 1949.
NSC Papers 10/2, 5412
- b. Whence proposed. Project originated in Headquarters CIA/opc.

3. SITUATION:

Since 1948, when the Tito regime broke with the Kremlin, Albania has been isolated from direct land connection with the other Soviet satellites. This, in addition to the ruggedness of the terrain and the tradition of clandestine activity by the Albanians, particularly the mountain tribesmen in the north, appeared to make Albania a promising target for clandestine activity aimed at the eventual overthrow of the present Communist regime. The British and American services in the summer of 1949 were responsible for the formation of the National Committee for Free Albania, a political center of representative democratic Albanian refugees, to serve as cover for covert activities for projected operations in Albania. (See project OBLIVIOUS.) Since that time, both PP and PM operations have been conducted in the name of the NCFa.

After repeated efforts to engage in clandestine PW against Albania via covert radio broadcasts from the high seas, arrangements were completed with the Government of Greece in the spring of 1950 which permitted CIA to create a communications installation in the Athens area for the purpose of PW broadcasting to the satellites. On 18 September 1951, the Voice of Free Albania (VOFA) was activated and has broadcast on an almost daily schedule into Albania since that time in the 43 and 46 meter bands.

4. PROPOSAL:

The establishment of VOFA was based on the belief that as a corollary to the National Committee for Free Albania (NCFa), a supplementary PW effort was necessary which would direct its efforts entirely to the creation and maintenance of a feeling of hope in the minds of the Albanian people inside the country. Consequently, with propaganda guidance from Headquarters, VOFA broadcasts into Albania news from the Free World, advice to the populace, encouragement for passive resistance and justification of the hope of ultimate liberation.

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5. OPERATIONAL OUTLINE:

a. Sub-proposals or tasks. At the appropriate time VOFA broadcasts will be used to call the people of Albania to support active resistance activities.

b. Key Personnel: One American Albanian-speaking case officer is responsible for program content, administrative support of the Albanian staff, and liaison with Commo for maintenance of the technical establishment.

c. Indigenous Groups and Leaders: An indigenous propaganda staff of five persons who write scripts and act as broadcasters under the supervision of the American case officer.

d. Target Groups: Generally, the entire population of Albania, specifically (e.g., defection appeals) Albanian and Russian Communist officials.

e. Duration: Project OBTEST is of indefinite duration, its termination being dependent either on the alteration of CIA objectives in Albania or proof that broadcast reception within the country is so limited that the cost of maintaining the project cannot be justified.

6. SECURITY:

a. Cover: The clandestine radio operates in the name of the NCFAs, with the propaganda staff ostensibly members of the NCFAs Athens welfare office.

b. Knowledgeability. Members of the NCFAs and of the propaganda staff are aware of official U.S. but not of CIA interest as such. MI-6 officers are aware of CIA interest, as are certain Greek officials.

c. Operational Security: Operational security is maintained through compartmentation and complete separation of the propaganda staff from the actual technical establishment.

d. Risks: Embarrassment of the United States and of the Greek Government as the host country.

e. Personnel Disposal: Project termination would present a personnel disposal problem as regards the Albanian staff. Attempts at resettlement would have to be made.

f. Disaster Plan: OBTEST personnel are included in the over-all disaster-evacuation plan for Greece, but will not be evacuated to the U.S.

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7. COORDINATION:

a. Relation to other projects. Project OBTEST is a PP project under the Albanian Country Program and as such is directly related to the other FI, PP and PM projects being directed against Albania.

b. Significance within overall program in area: Integral part of PW effort.

c. Extent of coordination:

(1) Activities directed by the chief of the Albanian operations staff in Athens under direction of Senior Representative and the chief of the PP staff. Communications Division provides technical equipment and personnel.

(2) No other agencies involved, except with respect to policy guidance from the Department of State.

(3) Propaganda guidance policy provided by State Department and British Foreign Office. Greek Government permits broadcasts from Greek soil.

8. CONTROL:

a. Nature of: OBTEST is financed by CIA. All scripts edited and supervised by CIA personnel. Ideological and financial motivation of propaganda staff.

b. Administrative Plan: NA

c. Reports: Field reporting in accordance with Field Regulation 50-11. Submission of copies of scripts to Headquarters.

9. BUDGET DATA:

a. Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1954:
(See attached financial breakdown.)

b. Availability of CIA funds required. Funds budgeted for FY 55.

c. Non-CIA funds. None.

d. Foreign currency. Yes

e. Funding. Funds to be released to case officer for direct payment and to be accounted for by regular financial accountings in accordance with CIA regulations.

f. Financial history. All operating expenses have been paid by OBOPUS (formerly BGFLEND) funds. See page 3a.

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BUDGET DATA (Continued)

Total OBOPUS obligations for previous fiscal years:

FY 1949 - 1950	[]
1951	[]
1952	[]
1953	[]
1954	[]
1955	[]

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9. BUDGET DATA (Continued)

g. Future requirements: Expenses will continue at same level through 1956.

10. SUPPORT DATA:

a. Total CIA Personnel:

1 case officer

b. See COMMO ANNEX for BGFIEND.

11. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

a. Current Status: Fully operative.

b. Commitments: NA

c. Effectiveness: Refugees and agents have confirmed that broadcasts are heard inside the country. Intensive jamming of broadcasts since August, 1953 indicates concern on the part of the Albanian Communist regime lest the programs reach the population.

d. Anticipated Results: To keep the spirit of resistance alive in Albania; encourage the population to aid operational teams; and if practicable to call on the people to overthrow the Hoxha regime.

e. Evaluation: Reports upon which to evaluate effectiveness of Project are scarce. Monitoring reports from a base in Bari give an indication of the quality of the signal, which has been variable. To date the best basis for judging has been the intensive jamming done by the Albanian Government which has been observed since August, 1953. A continuing effort will be made by all practicable means to review the signal effectiveness, jamming interference and impact on the target audience.

f. Policy Questions: Propaganda policy guidance is furnished by CIA in coordination with the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

g. Congress. NA

h. Extra-Agency action. NA

i. Proprietary companies. NA

j. Special considerations. NA

k. Liquidation. NA

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SECURITY INFORMATION

PROJECT CRYPTONYM

OBTEST

FISCAL PERIOD COVERED

1 July 1954 THRU 30 JUNE 1955

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA

*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION

RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION

SE

CASE OFFICER

[]

A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project.

TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION		
	U. S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER	TOTAL
STAFF EMPLOYEES					
STAFF AGENTS					
CAREER AGENTS					
CONTRACT AGENTS	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$10,800</u>		<u>\$10,800</u>
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS					
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER		<u>1</u>	<u>600</u>		<u>600</u>
TOTAL A.					<u>\$11,400</u>

B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT

Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.

COMMO \$	CHEMICAL \$	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES \$	OTHER SUPPLIES \$ <u>[]</u>
MEDICAL \$	ORDNANCE \$	SPECIAL DEVICES \$	OTHER EQUIPMENT \$ <u>[]</u>
TOTAL B.	<u>[]</u>		

C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.

Safehouse
Operational Expense []

TOTAL C. []

D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS

If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained.

NA

TOTAL D. []

TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$ []

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E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

Monthly payments



FORM REQUIRED

U. S. DOLLARS

~~Drachmas~~
FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

NA

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specificationally the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

NA

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Financial Data Supporting List

Expendable Office Supplies	\$1,200
Office Furnishings	\$2,500
	<hr/>
	\$3,700

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PROJECT BGFIEND

COMMUNICATIONS ANNEX

02 1953

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The intent of Project BGFIEND is to develop the necessary impetus to dislodge the present Soviet-controlled regime in Albania and influence the establishment of a government, representative of the people and more harmonious to that of the United States.

B. Status

Although this is the initial communications annex for the project, the Office of Communications has supported past activities and will continue to support all presently active operations of the project pending approval of the basic project and this annex.

Presently active under this project are:

- (1) A shortwave propaganda broadcast, directed towards Albania, being transmitted on a daily schedule from Athens, Greece.
- (2) One W/T equipped agent penetration operation into Albania.

II. COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

In addition to the above the Office of Communications will be required to furnish the following support during the Fiscal Year 1953:

A. Circuits

Five (5) potential agent circuits operating from Albania into the

B. Equipment

- (1) Ten (10) agent type radio sets (RS-5 or RS-6)
- (2) Five (5) GN-58, hand generators
- (3) Necessary crystals, signal plans and cryptographic materiel.

C. Training

The Office of Communications will provide the necessary communications training for the agent radio operators required to operate the circuits as described. Training to be accomplished at existing sites.

III SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

A. Communications training will be given in accordance with the instructions as outlined in Office of Communications letter number CY-2-25/ as amended by letter number CY-2-923 and OSO Field Regulation 10-5.

(1) Basic and Intermediate Phases to be authorized upon receipt of a provisional clearance, a full operational clearance or a waiver of same (Intermediate Phase to be authorized upon satisfactory completion of the Basic Phase).

(2) Advance Phase to be authorized upon receipt of a full operational clearance or a waiver of same (and upon satisfactory completion of the Intermediate Phase).

B. Communications support of this project is subject to revision in view of changing requirements. Major changes constituting an amendment to the basic plan will require a similar amendment to the Communications Annex.

C. It is understood that recruitment, administration and operational clearance of indigenous personnel will be the responsibility of the SE Division.

IV COMMUNICATIONS LOGISTIC SUPPORT

A. Personnel

Communications personnel assigned to the PYREX station will continue to support the communications aspects of this project.

B. Equipement

Equipment will be supplied from existing communications stock.

C. Finance

Ten (10) agent radio sets (RS-5 or RS-6)	\$ 5,500.00
Five (5) GN-58, hand generators	1,250.00
Cryptographic Materiel	<u>600.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,350.00

D. Budget

This cost has been included in the Office of Communications Budget for Fiscal Year 1953.

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V. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Implementation of this support on the part of the Office of Communications will take place subsequent to receipt of written notice of project approval by the appropriate authority.

B. Administration of the communications support to this project will be the responsibility of the Chief, WEMCA, in coordination with such other communications areas as may be required.

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