

SECRET

Summary of Broadcasting Activities Under Project

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A. Type of Operation

SE Division runs a broadcast operation targetted against Albania which employs one CIA staff officer and three Albanian agents.

B. Basic Facts

The [] was known as the Voice of Free Albania and was ostensibly sponsored by the National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA) from September 1951 until June 1956. At that time the NCFA was disbanded and the station has referred, when necessary, to "the Committee" without making any more specific attribution. The 2500-watt transmitter is based just outside of Athens, Greece, and the Albanian language broadcasts are aimed at the urban and rural population in the country itself. Transmissions run as high as 16 short broadcasts per day although in winter months, due to climatic conditions, the number is usually cut down.

C. Progress and Accomplishments, September 1955 - August 1956

1. Operational Build-up

Use has been made of the "cuddling" technique and it is believed that this has been helpful in avoiding jamming. Shortening the programs and providing for frequent repetition so that people can more readily piece the program together also has been adopted as an anti-jammer technique. The Office of Communications has added a "Servo" unit which improves jammer evasion. Evening broadcasts, reported by monitors to be inaudible, have been dropped almost completely.

2. Operational Actions

Some of the themes which we have exploited with special success in Albania are: the food offer renewal by the U.S., the tension in Albania resulting from the Tito/Moscow reconciliation, the Stalin denigration and Khrushchev's speech, the purge of Molotov to satisfy Tito, rebroadcast of Hoxha speeches praising Stalin.

3. Broadcast Effectiveness

On the basis of evidence that many of the radios in Albania belong to Communist party members, an effort is being made to tailor more of the messages to this element. Unfortunately, while the number of refugees from Albania to Greece has increased slightly, most of them are from rural areas with infrequent access to radios. The regime continues to avoid mentioning the Voice of Free Albania by name but has on more

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than one occasion referred to "those Albanians who have sold themselves to the foreigners and split our heads with radio propaganda". One Italian repatriate reported that there were severe penalties for those caught listening to Western broadcasts. Several refugees have reported that trusted friends have passed items of news and other messages which they had heard on the program. Another refugee reported listening to the Voice of Free Albania at a relative's home on a regular basis for almost three years. The French Minister in Tirana has reported that the program is one of the most popular in Albania.

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