

NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPROVAL

PROJECT: **COVERT**

ACTION		AREA
<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW PROJECT	DIVISION <b>SI</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDMENT NO.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RENEWAL	BRANCH <b>Albania</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TERMINATION	DESK
<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMO REQUEST	

AUTHORIZATION

APPROVING AUTHORITY <b>CFP</b> NOV 27 1956	AMOUNT [ ]	FISCAL YEAR <b>FE 1957</b>
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CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The summary request for renewal of Project **COVERT** for **FE 1957** in the amount of [ ] has been reviewed by the **FP Staff**. No further documentation is required.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

PP/OPS/PP REF. NO. <b>COV 3535</b>	SIGNATURE <b>SIGNED</b> [ ]	DATE <b>4 DEC 1956</b>
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DISTRIBUTION

1	DD/P	1	SSA-DD/S	1	COVERT BUDGET BRANCH	1	AREA DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMIN.	1	PP/OPS/PR	2	PP/OPS/PP
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SECRET

Summary Request For Project Amendment

Division Project Clearance Sheet

1. Action: Request for Project Amendment, FY 1957

a. Project Cryptonym

OBTLST

b. Division

SE

c. Branch

IA

2. Division Concurrences:

<i>h</i> C/SE/IA	<i>h</i>	<i>h</i>
<i>h</i> SE/CFF		
<i>h</i> SE/M&F	<i>h</i>	
<i>h</i> SE/CAL		
<i>h</i> C/SE		

8 March 57  
Date

11 March 57  
Date

20 March 57  
Date

20 March 57  
Date

21 March 57  
Date

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Summary Request for Renewal  
Division Project Clearance Sheet

1. Action: Request for Renewal, FY 1957

a. Project Cryptonym

OBTEST

b. Division

SE

c. Branch

Yugoslavia/Albania

2. Division Concurrences:

CSE/Y-A

20 July 1956  
Date

SE/PPP

20 July 56  
Date

SE/B&F

23 July 56  
Date

SE/CAL

26 July 56  
Date

C/SE

27 July 1956  
Date

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Project: OBTEST

1. Approvals

Original Approval (as part of BGFIND) 22 June 1949

Original Approval (as separate project) 16 July 1954

2. Funds Used

Prior to FY 1955 (separate breakdown not available)

FY 1955      [      ]

FY 1956      [      ]

3. Objectives and Proposal

To maintain a clandestine radio station for regular broadcasts to Albania in order to keep alive the spirit of passive resistance and hope for eventual freedom, to stimulate popular pressure on the Communist regime, to encourage defection and to promote friction between Albania and other parts of the Soviet orbit.

4. Accomplishments and Effectiveness

During 1955 the radio broadcast four times daily on two frequencies from PYREX facilities. The number of new programs prepared weekly varied from four in the summer to two in the winter, when propagation conditions for broadcasts to Albania are much poorer. Monitoring reports from Italy and northern Greece and intelligence collected from refugees indicate that the broadcasts are audible, in spite of jamming, from March to October. Results of refugee interrogations concerning awareness of the radio have not been very favorable. However, those refugees who had heard, or heard of, the radio commented favorably on its appeal. (It should be noted that most of the refugees are from remote rural areas where very few persons have access to a radio.) It is apparent that the radio has annoyed the regime as Enver Hoxha and Radio Tirana have attacked it by name on several occasions during 1955.

5. Plans

It is planned to continue broadcasts during the coming year at the same level, or at a slightly reduced level, depending on the replacement of indigenous employees who are being processed for emigration. Since it is believed that most of the radio owners are Communists, more emphasis will be given to disaffection and defection themes than to "pressure from below". A change in broadcast format has already been made and will be continued in FY 1956. To lessen the disruptive effects of jamming, ten or more brief items are given during each broadcast instead of the lengthier treatment formerly given to three or four topics.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Project OBTEST, Amendment No. 1

1. It is requested that Amendment No. 1 to Project OBTEST be approved in the amount of \$6,800, increasing the project's FY 1957 authorization from \$16,300 to \$23,100, to provide funds for the payment of three additional agents to be used in redirecting the present broadcasting capability to include the development of a program ostensibly emanating from Socialists in Exile and playing the so-called National Communist line.

2. Project OBTEST was originally approved as a part of Project BOFIEND on 22 June 1949 and was documented and approved as a separate project on 16 July 1954. The objectives of the project as approved under a renewal dated 27 November 1956 are:

"To maintain a clandestine radio station for regular broadcasts to Albania in order to keep alive the spirit of passive resistance and hope for eventual freedom, to stimulate popular pressure on the Communist regime, to encourage defection and to promote friction between Albania and other parts of the Soviet orbit."

3. Since approval, the project has been active and the radio, The Voice of Free Albania, currently maintains daily broadcasts with about three new programs each week. Broadcasts are of 16-minute duration four times daily, using two different frequencies simultaneously. Random transmissions have also been employed and these have successfully evaded Albanian jamming. Jamming of the regular broadcasts, although fairly intensive, is relatively ineffective because of the simultaneous transmissions over two frequencies and frequently is evaded by "cuddling" Radio Tirane. The few Refugee and monitoring reports available to us indicate the programs are clearly audible in Albania. The refugee evaluations of VOFA have been highly favorable during 1956. VOFA has been the subject of several recent attacks by the Albanian regime.

4. OBTEST now proposes to establish and develop a national communist type radio program in accord with recent revisions of policy regarding clandestine propaganda activity. The program will be designed to appeal to medium and lower level Communist party and government officials through media purporting to emanate from Socialists and Communists who, disillusioned with the present regime, have fled their homeland. This radio will urge less emulation and subservience to the Soviets and will attempt to disrupt and loosen the Moscow-Tirane relationship. Since the largest percentage of Albanians owning radios are Communists, future plans will emphasize the new national communist line and anti-Communist programming will be curtailed.

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5. To implement these plans, additional personnel will be required. Following is a brief statement concerning the duties of two of the individuals proposed for use and a short biographical sketch of each one. A third individual has not yet been chosen.

a. [ ]

Born in Yugoslavia on 30 August 1918 of Albanian parents. He speaks Albanian, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, French, German and English. He was employed as a translator by the CID Detachment in Trieste from August 1946 until December 1951. In January 1952 he emigrated to the United States under the auspices of the IRO and with CIA assistance. Effective 1 January 1952 he became a contract agent. He received training during his stay in the United States and in March 1953 he returned to [ ] where he was employed as an interpreter-translator in the [ ] offices. He was transferred to [ ] in November 1954 where he was employed until February 1957 under Project OBLONG (FI) to collect operational information and to serve as principal agent for operations under the project. He returned to the United States in February 1955 and his contract was renewed for two years at an annual compensation of \$4,000. He is reported by all case officers who have worked with him to be an intelligent well-educated and reliable individual. He has an excellent knowledge of conditions both within Albania and among Albanian exile groups. He is presently in Washington being processed for U. S. citizenship, and career agent status at \$5,440 annually. His clearance (OA) was amended effective 15 March 1957. He will receive further training in Reports, Secret Writing, Psychological Warfare and Tradecraft while he is in the U. S. He will depart for [ ] about 1 May 1957 where he will serve as principal agent and guide the activities of the three indigenous agents already employed under OBTEST in the development, preparation and production-dissemination of material broadcast on VOVA. He has been serving as critic and editor for scripts for the radio for several months, in addition to his duties under Project OBLONG.

b. ALPHEBE

Born at Korca, Albania, on 18 May 1922. He was formerly a member of the Albanian Communist party who, following his defection to Greece from Albania in December 1954 was used to provide KUBARK with copious information on Albanian newspapers, radio and the history of the Albanian Communist Party. Before defecting he served as Press Attache in the Albanian Legation in Belgrade in 1946/47, was employed by the Party newspaper, Zeri i Popullit from 1949 to 1953 and was serving in the Press Office of Radio Tirana until a few weeks prior to his defection. He fell into disfavor with the Party, lost his membership and was jailed in 1947 for having married a non-proletarian Yugoslav woman. He has been polygraphed and an OA was granted on 18 March 1957 granting use of subject as a writer-announcer for the National Communist type radio. His clearance is subject to periodic check and another technical interrogation within a year. He is considered highly intelligent, and reliable to a satisfactory degree for the job he will be performing.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

<b>PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA</b>		PROJECT CRYPTONYM <b>SECRET</b>			
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED <b>1 July</b> 195 <sup><b>6</b></sup> THRU 30 JUNE 195 <sup><b>7</b></sup>			
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION		RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION <b>SI/ZA</b>			
		CAS OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS</b>					
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	<b>1</b>		<b>\$1,900.00</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>
CONTRACT AGENTS					
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS		<b>5</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>		<b>7,000.00</b>
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.					<b>\$11,800.00</b>
<b>B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT</b>					
Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.					
COMMO \$	CHEMICAL \$	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES \$	OTHER SUPPLIES \$	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
MEDICAL \$	ORDNANCE \$	SPECIAL DEVICES \$	OTHER EQUIPMENT \$	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
TOTAL B.				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>					
Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.					
<b>1. Travel</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>2. Communications</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>3. Rents &amp; Utilities</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>4. Miscellaneous Operational Expenses</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL C.			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS</b>					
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.					
TOTAL D.					
TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D)	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

**E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

U. S. DOLLARS

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

**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.)

**SECRET**



**SECRET**

<b>PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA</b>		PROJECT CRYPTONYM			
		OBTEST			
<b>*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION</b>		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED			
		1 July 1956 THRU 30 JUNE 1957			
RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION SE/YA		CASE OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS</b>					
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					
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS		3	6,000.00		
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.			6,000.00		
<b>B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT</b>					
Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.					
COMMO \$	CHEMICAL \$	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES \$	OTHER SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
MEDICAL \$	ORDNANCE \$	SPECIAL DEVICES \$	OTHER EQUIPMENT <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL B. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>					
Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.					
Travel Communications Rents & Utilities Misc. Ops. Exp. <div style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 40px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>					
TOTAL C. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS</b>					
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.					
TOTAL D.					
TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					

**E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

U. S. DOLLARS

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

**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.)