

SECRET

PP STAFF COORDINATION

PROJECT: OBTEST

X	AMENDMENT NO. 1	DIVISION	SE/YA
	RENEWAL	BRANCH	Albania
	TERMINATION	DESK	

STAFF CONCURRENCE				MEMORANDUM ATTACHED		
ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	SIGNATURE	COPY NO.	DATE	YES	NO	DATE
Analysis Br. No. 1		2	11 April 57			
SSA-DD/S		2	17 April 57			
PP/ICD/Media		3	11 April 57			
PP/OPS/PR		1	12 April 57			
PP/C/OPS		1	18 April 57			

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

D CPP	SIGNATURE	DATE	19 April 57
A/DD/P/P	SIGNATURE	DATE	

(This space reserved for comments of SSA-DD/S; CPP; A/DD/P/P.)
1) Funds programmed in operating budget

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Summary Request For Project Amendment
Division Project Clearance Sheet

1. Action: Request for Project Amendment, FY 1957

a. Project Cryptonym

OBTEST

b. Division

SE

c. Branch

YA

2. Division Concurrences:

C/SE/YA /

8 March 1957
Date

SE/CPP

11 March 1957
Date

SE/B&F

20 March 57.
Date

SE/CAL

20 March 57
Date

C/SE

21 March 57
Date

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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 increasing the project's FY 1957 authorization from to , 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 BGFIEND 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.

SECRET

SECRET

Page - 2

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 VOFA. 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. AIPLEBE

Born at Korce, 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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PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA		PROJECT CRYPTONYM OBTEST			
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED 1 July 195 6 THRU 30 JUNE 195 7			
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION					
RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION SE/YA		CASE OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
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	1		\$1,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$4,800.00
CONTRACT AGENTS					
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS		5	7,000.00		7,000.00
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.					\$11,800.00
B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT					
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"/>
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.					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Travel 2. Communications 3. Rents & Utilities 4. Miscellaneous Operational Expenses <div style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>					
TOTAL C.					<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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.					
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 specifically the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)