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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE Division

VIA: Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

SUBJECT: Proposal that RFE Broadcast to Albania

1. By memorandum of 12 November 1957, SE/CPP requested consideration of a resumption of broadcasting service by Radio Free Europe to Albania. The request is based on the desirability of providing anti-Communist radio propaganda to take the place of the present broadcasts transmitted in Athens, and which are to be discontinued.

2. In discussions with representatives of SE, this Division has stated the position that, in the absence of compelling policy reasons, it would be inadvisable for RFE to undertake such broadcasts at this time. The principal bases of this position are:

- A. Budget limitations on RFE in this fiscal year and ceilings on ensuing fiscal years, coupled with increasing administrative costs the most important of which relate to anticipated wages adjustment, are expected materially to reduce RFE's present operational funds.
- B. The acquisition of competent Albanian exile desk employees and Albanian speaking American supervisors, while not insoluble, is a difficult problem.
- C. The proposal envisions that RFE would pick up the straight anti-Communist line of the present broadcasts, leaving to the present broadcasts the treatment of "national communism." This would place RFE in a difficult position vis a vis its exile employees who would question the difference in program lines to Albania as compared to the present five target countries.
- D. It is doubtful that RFE, from a policy point of view, should undertake broadcasts at this time to Albania. Obviously, the U.S. policy toward Yugoslavia would have important and possibly controlling bearing on the matter.

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3. Consideration has been given to the suggestion that this proposal might be appropriate for action by the Radio Broadcasting Policy Committee. This Division believes that for the present budgetary and administrative problems must be looked upon as the controlling factors and recommends against referral of the matter to the Committee. It is pointed out, however, that in the relatively fluid East European situation, it is conceivable that there might arise a need for broadcasts to Albania which would justify a re-examination of present targeting by RFE, with a view to finding some means which would be within practical capabilities or which would necessitate the allocation of additional funds.

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Chief
International Organizations Division

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