

SECRET

NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPROVAL

PROJECT: ~~OBTEST~~

ACTION		AREA	
	NEW PROJECT	DIVISION	
	AMENDMENT NO.	SE	
X	RENEWAL (FY 1959)		
	TERMINATION	BRANCH	
	MEMO REQUEST	Yugoslav-Albanian	
		DESK	
		Albanian	

AUTHORIZATION

APPROVING AUTHORITY GPP	7 OCT 1958	AMOUNT []	FISCAL YEAR 1959
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CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Renewal in the amount of [] for FY 1959 approved.

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

PP/OPS/PP REF. NO. SEP 5401	SIGNATURE SIGNED PP/PRD/PP []	DATE 15 OCT 1958
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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
(When Filled In)

PP STAFF COORDINATION

PROJECT: **OBTEST**

AMENDMENT NO.

DIVISION

SE

X

RENEWAL (FY 1959)

BRANCH

Yugoslav-Albanian

TERMINATION

DESK

Albanian

STAFF CONCURRENCE

MEMORANDUM
ATTACHED

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	SIGNATURE	COPY NO.	DATE	YES	NO	DATE
SSA-DD/S	<i>[Signature]</i>	2	10/2/58			
PP/PRD/RB	<i>[Signature]</i>	1 & 3	4 Oct 58			
PP/PYD	<i>Copy No 3 Coordtd. w/[Signature]</i>	3	2 Oct 58			
PP/C/PRD		1				

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

<i>[Signature]</i> CPP	SIGNATURE	<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE
	SIGNATURE		DATE

(This space reserved for comments of SSA-DD/S; CPP) *✓* Funds programmed in operating budget.
 * In approving this renewal we wish to call attention to the great need for obtaining sufficient concrete data which might furnish the basis for evaluation of the operation and justifying continuance beyond the current fiscal year. It is expected that all possible means for obtaining such data will be explored throughout this current year. Future renewal will be considered in the light of a determination as to whether or not at least a technical evaluation is possible. Meantime any expansion of the operation through the acquisition of additional broadcasting personnel does not seem justifiable prior to the acquisition of evaluating data.

S-E-C-R-E-T

REQUEST FOR PP PROJECT RENEWAL
DIVISION PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. ACTION: Request for Renewal, FY 1959

a. Project Cryptonym	<u>OBTEST</u>
b. Division	<u>SE</u>
c. Branch	<u>Yugoslav-Albanian</u>
d. Desk	<u>SE/YA/PP</u>
e. Case Officer's Name and Telephone Extension	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> X 8530

2. DIVISION CONCURRENCES:

1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>c/8G/YA</u>	<u>8 Aug '58</u> Date
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>c/8E/PP</u>	<u>8 Aug 58</u> Date
3.	<u>EE BPF</u>			
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>c/8G</u>	<u>8-11-58</u> Date

S-E-C-R-E-T

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CI STAFF COMMENTS:

It is recommended that some suitable cover be developed for the indigenous employee. Also, knowledge of his employment and the type work he is doing for KUBARK should be restricted as much as possible within HBHADDOCK. How many within HBHADDOCK are in the know? How many within OBSERVANT?

Although mention is made of plans under way to attempt to determine if these broadcasts are reaching the targets, and what effect, if any, they are having on their listeners, it would seem that in its fifth year, we should at least know for certain if the transmissions are reaching their destination. Unless this can be determined, there would seem to be little point in continuing the project.

[]

for C/CI

2 September 1958

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SE/YA Comments on attached "CI STAFF COMMENTS"

1. Suitable cover for the indiginous agent is being developed.

2. In regard to para. 2 of CI STAFF COMMENTS: the CI STAFF has not distinguished between the previous radio, HTGRUBBY (anti-Communist in nature) operating under project OBTEST, and the present "national Communist" type of radio operating under OBTEST/^{only}since May 1957. It was determined several years ago that HTGRUBBY was definitely heard inside Albania, and that it had some salutary effect. The present "national-Communist" type of radio bdcsts at pretty much the same conditions as HTGRUBBY did and can therefore be assured to be capable of being heard in Albania, but to date no refugee from inside the country has confirmed this probable assumption.

*Noted
/H
9/16/58*

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*Project:
Obtest*

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REQUEST FOR PP PROJECT RENEWAL

1. TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED
2. AMOUNT IN WHICH PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM
3. SUMMARY OF FUNDS APPROVED AND OBLIGATED BY FISCAL YEAR SINCE PROJECT INITIATION

FY 1955	\$	[]
FY 1956		[]
FY 1957		[]
FY 1958		[]

4a. There have been no significant policy changes affecting Albania during the previous fiscal year. However, there has been a renewed emphasis on catalyzing evolutionary changes toward greater freedom, and promoting revisionism within the Albanian Communist Party.

4b. The project objectives have changed insofar as the anti-Communist radio has been phased out and the "national Communist" radio has been emphasized.

4c. The anti-Communist radio, HNGRUBBY, which had been operating since late 1951 was terminated in March 1958 for the following reasons:

1. lack of a full time Albanian PP officer

2. policy shift to emphasizing the promotion of revisionism and factionalism within the CP ranks, rather than continuing on the anti-Communist theme. The part time case officer and one contract agent are thus able to devote their time to supporting the "national-Communist" type indigenous agent who writes the program scripts for OBTEST/1.

4d (e and f). Target Groups and Effectiveness

Middle-level members of the Government of Albania and members of the Albanian Worker's Party located in the general area of Tirane. Secondary targets include Soviet personnel stationed in or near Tirane, and those non-Party members, generally in some phase of industry or commerce, who have the capability of influencing governmental action in the course of their business. This is admittedly a very small - about 3.5 per cent - section of the Albanian population. Nevertheless, this is the group that has absolute and sole command of Albanian policy.

OBTEST/1 attempts to be realistic in terms of the Albanian scene. According to refugee sources and official Albanian government statistics, there are perhaps 50,000 radios within the country; of these, the majority of the independent sets belong to Communist Party members who may listen to the programs in the privacy of their own homes. The rest of the radios

Turned
 PP program
 LC file
 all done
 in CLEAR

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are believed to be assigned to groups, and some are known to belong to certain villages with a loud-speaker system set up in the public square for general listening. These last two categories - the "group" and "public" radios - are undoubtedly controlled by the local Party officials and we must therefore presume that the general public cannot listen to other than the State-prescribed radio programs.

OBTEST/1 has consequently been tailored to these exigencies. Since its inception in May 1957, OBTEST/1 has broadcast on an average of one new script per week. Until March 1958, the program utilized about 60 transmitter hours a month; since that time the program has been boosted to 180 broadcast hours monthly. The programs are now aired six times daily, being broadcast on two frequencies simultaneously at each airing.

Effectiveness:

There is to date no real basis for judging the effectiveness of this program. The program is frequently monitored by FBIS in London on the "second bounce" but this is not conclusive proof that the "first bounce" is being heard in Tirane. KUBARK learned of an alleged Sigurimi agent who had been sent on an harassment mission against AIPLEBE. Although we have never been able to fully determine the circumstances surrounding this agent, the facts, if true, could be applied as proof that OBTEST/1 causes concern to the Albanian leaders, and this harassment mission was an attempt to burn AIPLEBE. Finally, the 24 June 1958 and 16 March 1958 issues of Zeri i Popullit, the official Communist organ, branded as baseless the accusation of revisionists and revisionist radios that the Party indulged in dogmatism and in the slavish application of Stalinism in Albania - one of the principle charges of OBTEST/1. There is, of course, no specific proof that the Communist organ was referring to OBTEST/1 in its pronouncement; but the general tenor of the attack was such as to make this fairly clear.

Anticipated Results

This program is designed to bring about changes in Albania that lead to a greater liberalization. We plan to promote favorable circumstances for such changes by encouraging divisiveness within the middle-level bureaucratic clique which has everyday responsibility for the management of Albanian affairs, by embarrassing certain officials whenever this is feasible, and by offering - insofar as possible - precise suggestions for the improvement of the situation. Certainly we cannot guarantee such hopes under the heading of "anticipated results;" if our program is effective in weakening the regime, the Albanian leaders could very possibly try to counteract OBTEST/1 by harsher and more repressive measures instead of turning to this desired liberalization. The specific results which we hope to attain during the Fiscal Year 1959 are: (1) an enlargement of our listening audience; and (2) creation of an atmosphere which is more acceptable to liberalization of the regime policies.

To date, no refugees, interrogated by KUBARK, have claimed any knowledge of OBTEST/1. Other means of evaluation, i.e., monitoring the program on the Albanian border, FBIS monitoring reports, and attention to the reaction of Albanian leaders relating the matters covered by OBTEST/1 have been inconclusive.

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In the coming year, we hope to improve this situation by (1) having OBTEST/1 monitored in Tirane, and (2) coordinating with the FI project to have more extensive refugee interrogations. OBTEST/1 plans to adopt one or two campaigns for specific changes within Albania that will be repeated continuously over the coming year.

4g. Project OBTEST is in close relation to Project OBSERVANT, the latter being an FI project which provides OBTEST with usable information when possible; OBTEST could possibly be geared if necessary to aid Project OBSERVANT by giving advanced billing to some matter advantageous to OBSERVANT. The extent and manner of such cooperation between projects will be considered in detail only when a salutary situation presents itself.

4h. Cover

The Staff Officer and Career Agent are under cover as Department of Army civilians assigned to the []

] The indigenous employee has no authenticated cover; furthermore, his employment with KUBARK is known to HBHADDOCK since our plans for exploitation of this individual were jointly considered with HBHADDOCK. The clandestine radio is also known to HBHADDOCK for this same reason. As stated above, however, the natural cover for this radio consists of the allusion that it is directed by several disaffected Albanian Communists.

Knowledgeability

The indigenous employee is aware of ODYOKE sponsorship of the radio but is not specifically aware of KUBARK involvement. As stated above, HBHADDOCK is aware of the real nature of the program and of KUBARK involvement by virtue of the fact that a copy of each program is forwarded to HBHADDOCK at the time of airing.

Operational Security

This operation is compartmented from all other operations that are currently under force with the exception of Project OBSERVANT; one of the agents under OBSERVANT has been used as a speaker on OBTEST/1, and our indigenous employee presumably has some knowledge of the refugee interrogations conducted under OBSERVANT since some information gained thereby has been used on the clandestine programs. Adequate safe facilities and meeting plans, plus the use of aliases by Staff personnel have been used to preserve the security of this operation.

Risks

The Socialist line and the brand of revisionism preached by OBTEST/1, if this were known to have PPRIME origins, could be used by the Communist Party of Albania in an attempt to defeat the basic aims of the program. However, we consider this a minimum risk since ODYOKE policy toward Yugoslavia and Poland has already indicated that ODYOKE at least condones Socialism as an acceptable course for the East European Satellites.

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The Greek Government, which has given its blessing to OBTEST/1 through HBHADDOK, would probably not be embarrassed if the true nature of OBTEST were to become known. The Greeks themselves are still at a state of war with Albania and are running far more aggressive operations into that country.

Personnel Disposal

No difficulty is foreseen in the disposal of AIPLEBE. Since AIPLEBE's parents reside in Greece, AIPLEBE himself would most probably wish to remain in the country, and his natural capabilities would probably not make it difficult for him to find employment here. Furthermore, Subject's current Letter of Intent makes provision for a termination bonus not to exceed 15,000.00 Drachmae (approximately ~~500.00~~ 500.00 ~~dollars~~ dollars) which we consider to be totally adequate in AIPLEBE's case.

Disaster Plan

Staff personnel and the Career Agent are included in the over-all disaster plan for LGFLAKE. The indigenous employee might be terminated, might become a stay-behind asset, or might be relocated and directed to continue his current duties; such a decision would, of course, depend upon the circumstances at the time.

4i. Indigenous Personnel

OBTEST/1 requires at least one person in addition to the Albanian-speaking Career Agent to produce the scripts and act as speaker on the program. If we hope to continue this program at its present level of quality, a second person of a caliber of AIPLEBE will be needed because:

- (1) there is always the possibility that AIPLEBE will become less and less imaginative as he becomes more divorced from the world of Communism;
- (2) it is highly desirable to have two speakers on the program to provide a necessary change of pace which helps to capture the listener's attention;
- (3) the interchange between AIPLEBE and another person of the same ilk would help OBTEST/1 by helping to guarantee continued stimulating scripts.

We will be on the constant lookout for a new recruit of the character of AIPLEBE; if such an asset can be found, we would amend this Project to cover our increased obligations.

4j. Key Personnel

One PEPRIME Case Officer is responsible for program content, administrative support of the Albanian staff, and liaison with WEMCA for the maintenance of the technical equipment. One PEPRIME Albanian-speaking Career Agent is responsible for the review and translation of the scripts for appropriateness and factual content, evaluation of current affairs in the light of future broadcasting, and general support to the Case Officer.

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4k. The Greek Government permits the broadcast of these programs from Greek soil. Copies of each program are passed to HBHADDOCK (for their information only) after each program is aired.

4l. The over-all financing of this project is under the sole control of KUBARK.

KUBARK personnel are responsible for supervising program production and editing of all scripts.

WEMCA provides technical equipment and maintenance personnel.

There is proposed liaison through KUBARK to the French and Italian Legations in Tirane to monitor OBTEST/1 in the Albanian Capital.

No other FEPRIME agencies are involved with the exception of policy guidance received from ODACID.

4m. Objectives

This project will continue to present to members of the Communist Party and Government in Albania certain evaluations, criticisms, and suggestions for the improvement of internal and foreign policies affecting the country with the ultimate purpose of: (a) loosening the ties between Albania and the Soviet Union; (b) encouraging modification of the harsher and more unenlightened policies of the regime; and (c) fostering disruptive influences with the hope of weakening the present regime.

Plans

To continue the operation of this clandestine radio station during the period 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959, such program purporting to be a statement of the belief of various Albanian Communist Party members who have become disaffected with the current management of the Regime. The place of orientation is not mentioned, although allusions in the programs may indicate that it comes from outside Albania. OBTEST/1 should be allocated a maximum of 220 transmitter hours monthly at the WEMCA transmitter facilities in the vicinity of Athens, Greece.

Personnel assigned under this project will be required to produce propaganda radio scripts at such a frequency and having such content as shall be directed by the KUBARK Staff Officer in charge. Personnel will also be responsible for monitoring of Radio Tirane, performing such research as may be necessary, interrogation of selected refugees for applicable propaganda material, and, insofar as is possible, evaluation of OBTEST/1 production through the monitoring of these programs and the assimilation of data obtained from refugees, monitoring reports from FBIS, and Headquarters' guidance.

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Attachment A to SGAA-32537

FISCAL YEAR 1959 - PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATE

1. Agent Salaries

- a. \$ 5,710.00
- b. AIPLEBE 2,500.00
- c. Indigenous Agent (to be hired) 1,500.00

2. Safehouse Expenses (Including Maintenance)

- a. Safehouse (Office and Recording Studio) 1,200.00

3. Travel Expenses

- a. Home Leave 4,000.00
- b. Operational Travel 500.00

4. Operational Expenses

- a. Refugee Subsistence
- b. Purchase of publications
- c. Equipment
- d. Office supplies

5. Other Expenses

- a. Education Allowance
- b. Language Lessons
- c. Language Lessons AIPLEBE
- d. Quarters
- e. AIPLEBE Quarters
- f. Transportation and expenses incidental to recruiting another indigenous agent

TOTAL

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(When Filled In)

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA		PROJECT CRYPTONYM				
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED				
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION		OBTEST 195 <u>8</u> THRU 30 JUNE 195 <u>9</u>				
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		5,710.00	6,845.00*	12,555.00	
CONTRACT AGENTS		2	4,000.00	900.00*	4,900.00	
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS						
DETAILED PERSONNEL				(* over)		
FIELD AGENTS						
MILITARY						
ALL OTHER						
TOTAL A.					17,455.00	
B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT						
Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.						
COMMO	CHEMICAL	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES		OTHER SUPPLIES		
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	100.00	
MEDICAL	ORDNANCE	SPECIAL DEVICES		OTHER EQUIPMENT		
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	100.00	
TOTAL B.					200.00	
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	[]	Language lessons for Agents	\$	[]		
Ops Travel		Recruitment Expenses	\$	[]		
Refugee Subsistence						
Publications				\$	[]	
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.						
TOTAL D.						
TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D)					C	

SECRET
(When Filled In)

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

Drachmae

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.)

- * Includes home leave, expenses and educational allowance for career agent and quarters allowances for agents.

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