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Security Information

Branch Chief: Ext. 671 | Branch/Desk: SE-1 Project Crypto: OBHUNT

Case Officer: Ext. 672 | Target Area: Albania Base:

Type of Project: IM

Funding Mechanism			Approvals			
X	Direct	Subsidy	Date	Authority	FY	Amount
	Contractual	Proprietary				
	Fur. Services					
FY	Fiscal Review		Priority (A-E)	New Limitation?	CR. to FF Req?	
53	Authority		Branch Chief			
53	Obligations		OPF			
54	Fgn Request					
54	August Ceiling		GOP			
54	New ND/P-Directed Allotment Ceiling					

Brief Description of Project and Notes-----

I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of Project OBHUNT is the infiltration of agent teams into Albania for the purposes of establishing resistance nets, E & E nets, W/T nets; dead drops for the collection of operations and PW intelligence, spreading the name of the National Committee for a Free Albania (which is used as the ostensible sponsor of these teams - see project HTNEIGH) and assessing the effectiveness of the CIA PW effort mounted in the name of the NOFA. The ultimate objective of the project is for these teams to provide the nucleus of a striking and guiding force for armed resistance by the populace against the incumbent communist regime at the proper time.

II. ASSETS

A. The major asset of the project is the agent pool of approximately 25 trained Albanians which is maintained in the Athens area.

B. The Lavrion DP camp in Greece can be considered a project asset to the extent that promising agent material appears there from time to time as new refugees arrive.

C. A negligible asset is the Albanian Guard Company (4000th Labor Service (Guard) Battalion) located in Hohenbrunn, Germany and now controlled by EUCOM. The personnel of this unit would be available to CIA in the event of a need for a striking force to implement active UW against the communist regime.

III. OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUPPORTING OBJECTIVE

Since 11 November 1950 when the first agents were air-dropped into Albania OBHUNT and its predecessor parent Project BOFIEND have had the following results:

Teams

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Teams	21
Infiltrates	93
Exfiltrates	63
Defected to Yugoslavia	5
Captured	4 ✓
Killed	9 ✓
Status Unknown	12 ✓
Active in Albania	2 ✓

The first year of operations was marked by the use of low level agents recruited from the Guard Company and a lack of security on the part of witting NOFA members. As the result of the 1951 record of 4 agents captured and 9 killed, training and recruiting of agents in Germany with the knowledge of the NOFA was cancelled. The success of this move was reflected in the fact that there were no losses of any kind during the agent operations season of 1952. Agents have produced a considerable amount of PW and operations intelligence, have contacted numerous friends, established dead letter drops for future operations use, have confirmed that the CIA PW effort against Albania (Projects HIGRUBBY and OBTUSE) is reaching its mark and have generally helped to instill the ideas of passive resistance and the hope for ultimate liberation in the minds of the populace.

IV. NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The major negative developments in Project OBHUNT have been the loss of 18 agents through capture, death, and defection plus the possible loss of 12 others. Also to be considered are the increased security controls within the country and the intensification of security patrols.

V. ALTERNATE METHODS OF ATTAINING OBJECTIVE

None.

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