

DD/P 13537

SECRET

NOV 26 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT : Project OBSIDIOUS (Approval)

1. The attached project, originating in the SE Division, is herewith presented for your approval in the total amount of [] , for the period 1 October 1954 through 30 September 1955.

2. There is attached a memorandum, prepared by Plans Staff, dated 15 November 1954, summarizing the important factors involved and stating the recommendations of the FI Staff.

[]

Chief
Foreign Intelligence

Approved : [] []
COP-DD/P

26 November '54
Date

Attachment:

Project Outline OBSIDIOUS

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

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: SE/1 [] EXT-672		TELEPHONE		NO. PROJECT OUTLINE - OBVIOUS		
				DATE 24 September 1954		
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1. C/SE-1		29 Sept	24 Sept	JPB GM		Hand Carry X 672
2. SE/Admin		24 Sept		FAC		copy attached
3. SE/FI/CE SE/CFI		27 Sept	29 Sept	[initials]		2-8 In para. 15 (OBHUNT) shouldn't this be coordinated with CFP/DDP?
4. SE/CPM		29 Sept		[initials]		
5. SE/CP			29 Sept	[initials]		5-6 Feel SE/CPM should be added to coordinators. copy attached
6. SE/EX		SEP 29 1954	30 Sept	RZ		
7. DC/SE			30 Sept	[initials]		
8. C/SE			30 Sept	[initials]		
9. SE/A						
10. FI/Plans/Projects	1714 L	4 Oct	7 Oct	[initials]		
11. R2M		7 OCT 1954	8 Oct	JPC		- 11 to 12 888 Comment attached
12. Plans Br.	S. T.	11 Oct	13 Oct	JCS		
13. C/STC		OCT 14 54	Nov.	HCB		
14. STC/SPB		14 Oct	17 Oct	[initials]		
15. FI/OPS		NOV 3 1954	5 1954	[initials]		

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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM: OBSIDIOUS

DIVISION : SE

STATION : ATHENS

HQS CASE OFFICER: []
ROOM NUMBER : 1313-J
EXTENSION : 672
DATE : 21 September 1954

The attached project outline is presented for approval for the period 1 October 1954 to 30 September 1955.

[]
C/SE-1

[]
SM/CF1

[]
C/SE

30 September 1954
Date

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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM: OBSIDIOUS

PART I

1. Area of Operation

Albania

2. Purpose

To collect intelligence information on the economic, political and military stability and potentialities of satellite Albania.

3. Background

a. Since Yugoslavia's defection from Soviet suzerainty, Albania has become the only satellite whose territory is non-contiguous to that of any other member in the Soviet Orbit. In view of this isolation and evidence of the people's discontent with the Shehu regime, Albania is a target of intelligence interest and susceptible to exploitation.

b. The proposed operation was originally established and developed under OBHUNT, a PM Project. Under this project a two-man team was infiltrated into Albania from Greece the latter part of July 1954 and successfully recruited a resident principal agent. Preliminary steps have already been undertaken to establish communications between the principal agent and base. Since this operation is entirely dedicated to the establishment of an intelligence net and the collection of information described in paragraph 2, it is being submitted for approval as an independent FI project.

4. References

- a. SGAA-9343 (KAPOK-2513) Subject: Operational Plan
- b. SGAW-4894 (KAPOK-358) Subject: Headquarters Comments on Field's Operational Plan
- c. ATHE-7798 (IN-32758)
- d. SGAW-5983 (KAPOK-440)

5. Objectives and Targets

The ultimate objective of this operation is the collection of intelligence against the following requirements:

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- a. KUYAWL requirements ---- Durres.
- b. ID-2060 ---- Tirana Intelligence Requirements.
- c. IG-127 and confirmation of reports that a new airfield, replacing Tirana airfield, is being constructed near Vorre.
- d. General operational information concerning the area of operation.

6. Tasks

a. Case Officer

- (1) Maintain control, security and loyalty of two-man team involved in the border crossing aspects of this operation.
- (2) Establish a means of communication between the principal agent and base.
- (3) Further the training and guidance of the principal agent in establishing an intelligence net. Provide any support the p.a. may require in the recruitment of sub-agents and the functioning of the net once it is established.

b. Principal Agent

- (1) Recruit two of his brothers located in strategic areas of Albania.
- (2) Maintain control and security of the net once it is formed.
- (3) Establish a means of communication between members of the net.

7. Personnel

a. RNDOLLAR - Team Leader. RNDOLLAR is a trained W/T operator who has made several successful border crossings since he was first employed by KUBARK in 1950. He has proved himself to be a dedicated and intelligent agent of a maturity beyond his years (early twenties). RNDOLLAR is closely related to the resident principal agent whom he recruited the latter part of July 1954.

b. AIRBRED - Team Member. AIRBRED is also an experienced and capable agent who has been infiltrated into Albania several times since 1952. Although AIRBRED is not as well educated or as intelligent as RNDOLLAR he performs his support duties well and is highly regarded by RNDOLLAR.

c. AIPIGEON - Principal Agent. AIPIGEON, age 48, is married and employed as a farmer near the Greek Albanian border. He is a member of a large and

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well-known family in Southern Albania. AIPIGEON agreed to form an intelligence net when he was assured by RNDOLLAR that he would be working for the National Committee for a Free Albania and the Americans.

d. AIPIGEON's wife is witting of her husband's activities and may be used as a courier at a later date. A sister of AIPIGEON may also be used as a courier but in an unwitting capacity.

8. Operational and/or Security Clearance

- a. RNDOLLAR - Operational Clearance (no number) 20 October 1950.
- b. AIRBRED - Operational Clearance (No. 4448) 14 November 1952.
- c. AIPIGEON - Action has been initiated for his Operational Clearance.

9. Cover

a. Team members involved in the border crossing activity operate completely in the black and in the name of the National Committee for a Free Albania. While in Greece they continue their role of refugees and hold Greek Identification Cards.

b. Case officer cover: Civilian, U.S. Army. RNDOLLAR and AIRBRED do not know his [] cover or true name. They only know that the case officer is connected in a general way with American Intelligence.

10. Contact and Communications

a. Contact between the case officer and the team member is direct and usually takes place in a safe-house.

b. Contact between the team leader and AIPIGEON (principal agent) will be maintained during the developmental phase through use of a dead/drop already established and occasional personal meetings. During the production phase of this operation, a courier will probably be selected from an existing pool of agents for the sole purpose of servicing the dead/drop. In order to maintain compartmentation his knowledge of the operation will be limited to the dead/drop only.

c. Contact between the principal agent and sub-agents recruited will be through normal contact within the pattern of their day to day living. At a later date the agents involved will be instructed in the use of S/W.

11. Control and Motivation

a. Control over the team members stems basically from their high ideological motivation and their conviction that the liberation and

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territorial integrity of Albania can best be accomplished through the assistance of the United States.

b. Another control factor is based on the knowledge of team members that they will be returned to the DP camp at Lavrion, Greece, should their employment be terminated. They are also aware that as Albanian DP's in Greece they have no legal rights and may be imprisoned or isolated on a Greek Island without recourse.

12. Equipment and Other Support

- a. S/W and anti-dog materials.
- b. Weapons, "L" tablet, etc.
- c. Greek I.S. Their support consists chiefly in KUBARK's use of their border-crossing facilities, and for intelligence information on Albanian border installations and security forces.

13. Coordination

This project originated in the Support: Technical Service Staff.

14. Timetable

This project will be undertaken in three phases.

First phase - This was completed with the successful recruitment of the principal agent.

Second phase - Recruitment of two sub-agents. Infiltration for developing to a greater extent our means of communication with the principal agent and for his instruction in S/W.

Third and production phase - Infiltration for servicing of dead/drops.

15. Finances

Compensation	\$3,000
Travel and Transportation	1,000
Safe-house (incl. utilities)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplies and Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ops Expenses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

It is proposed to transfer sufficient funds currently budgeted under OBHUNT to meet the expenditure of this project.

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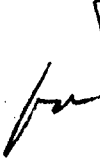
8 October 1954

Project OBSIDIOUS

1. Inasmuch as Project OBSIDIOUS has as its main purpose the fulfillment of IPC objectives and specific positive intelligence requirements submitted to CS/CIA by customer agencies, FI/RQM heartily recommends its approval.

2. FI/RQM notes that the targets cited in Project OBSIDIOUS are thoroughly consonant with those of the current IPC list for Albania. A new IPC submission, not yet approved, continues to express its interest in these areas to be covered by this project.

3. Since this is the first time FI/RQM has observed a project initiated to fulfill specific requirements, it wishes to commend both SE Division and the case officer in charge of Project OBSIDIOUS.

 []
Chief, FI/RQM

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8 October 1954

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[Chief, FI/RQM]

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:	TELEPHONE NO.
SE/I - []	672
	DATE
	24 Sept. 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1. Proj. Br.		8. Nov	17 Nov	BE		
2. DC/PLANS		19 Nov	19 Nov	OK		
3. C/PLANS				✓		
4. C/FI				✓		
5. OD/P-COP				✓		
6. PROJ. BK.		30 Nov		✓		
7.						
8. SE/I	1313 J					
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						
13.						
14.						
15.						

BY HAND

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15 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Foreign Intelligence

SUBJECT : Project OBSIDIOUS (Approval)

1. PURPOSE: To establish an intelligence network inside Albania for the collection of political, economic, and military information.
2. PERSONNEL:
 - a. RNDOLLAR, the border-crossing team leader, is an Albanian DP in Greece who was first employed by CIA in 1950. He is in his early twenties but has shown maturity and judgment, and has made several successful crossings. He is closely related to the P/A, whom he recruited in July 1954 (see paragraph 4 below).
 - b. AIRBRED, border-crossing team member, also an Albanian DP, is not as well-educated or intelligent as RNDOLLAR, but performs his support duties well.
 - c. AIPIGEON, P/A, 48 years old, is employed as a farmer in Albania near the Greek border. He is a member of a well-known family in Southern Albania.
 - d. AIPIGEON's wife, who is witting of her husband's activities, may later be employed as a courier. The P/A's sister may also be used as a courier in an unwitting capacity.
 - e. Two sub-agents will be recruited (these may possibly be brothers of the P/A, located in strategic areas of Albania).
 - f. A courier will probably be selected from an existing agent pool to service a dead/drop. He will be compartmented from any other knowledge of the operation.
3. COVER:
 - a. The case officer, whose cover is US Army civilian, will make direct contact with the border-crossing team at meetings which will usually take place in a safehouse. The team members know the CO is connected in a general way with AIS, but do not know his cover nor his true name.

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- b. The team will operate completely in the black and in the name of the National Committee for a Free Albania. Contact between the team and the P/A, during the developmental stage, will be by an already established dead/drop, but there will be occasional personal meetings. It is planned to instruct the agents in the use of S/W as the project develops.
- c. The P/A, in any contacts with sub-agents, will use natural cover as an Albanian farmer.
- 4. BACKGROUND: OBSIDIOUS was developed as a result of a border-crossing activity carried out under OBHUNT, a PM project. OBHUNT's two-man infiltration team succeeded in recruiting AIPIGEON as a P/A. Since the main purpose of OBSIDIOUS will be to collect information, it is being presented as an independent FI project.
- 5. ACTION REQUESTED: Approval for the period 1 October 1954 through 30 September 1955, with authorization to obligate \$9,800 from the DD/P-SE Division budget for the fiscal year 1955, and from the budget for the fiscal year 1956, assuming that sufficient funds will then be available to carry the project through the approval period requested.

Breakdown: Agents' compensation (RNDOLLAR, AIRBRED, & \$3,000 AIPIGEON):
Travel and transportation: 1,000
Safehouse (including utilities): []
Supplies and equipment: []
Operational expenses: []

- 6. FI STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:
 - a. FI/OPS recommends approval without comment. Plans Branch concurs with the comment: "This is in conformance with the Albanian Country Plan, Part II, Paragraph 1a, dated 18 June 1954."
 - b. STC/SPB requests the SE Division to process the wife of P/A AIPIGEON for Operational Clearance. The responsible CO reports that this action will be initiated when necessary biographical data is received from the field.

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c. RQM "heartily recommends approval," commenting that (1) The main purpose of OBSIDIOUS is the fulfillment of IPC objectives and specific positive intelligence requirements submitted by customer agencies; (2) The targets cited are thoroughly consonant with those on the current IPC list for Albania, and a new IPC submission, not yet approved, continues to express interest in those areas to be covered by this project; and (3) "Since this is the first time FI/RQM has observed a project initiated to fulfill specific requirements, it wishes to commend both SE Division and the case officer in charge of Project OBSIDIOUS."

Concur:

[]

Chief, FI

[]
[]

Chief, Plans

23 Nov 54
Date

Attachment: Project Outline OBSIDIOUS

FI Staff Coordination:

For DC/FI/OPS - S
For Plans Br. - S
C/Plans Br. - S
STC/SPB - S
For C/STC - S
For RQM - S
C/RQM - S

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