

SECRET CONTROL

5 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OSO Contact with King Zog

FROM: [ ]

1. The following information was obtained through unofficial channels and, therefore, proper precautions should be taken prior to any discussions with OSO. The writer would appreciate being informed, in advance, if OSO is contacted regarding this matter.

2. During October and November 1948, [ ] of FBM obtained the following information from a source who is an export-import merchant in Switzerland, with interests in Egypt. His partner in the firm is Wehwi FRASHERI, member of Zog's personal Secret Intelligence Service, and son of Mehdi, former Prime Minister of Albania, now in exile with King Zog in Alexandria, Egypt.

3. Source and FRASHERI make periodic journeys to Egypt in the line of their business. During October and November 1948, Source had several conversations with King Zog, during which aid was asked of Source in the following proposal. Zog proposed close collaboration with the United States in running intelligence operations into Albania, with the stipulation that the United States would use two or three of his choice agents, one of whom was FRASHERI, in the operations. Zog claimed to have close contact with members of various Ministries in Albania, such as Army, Navy, etc. Through these contacts, and many others in Albania, who are loyal to his cause, Zog claimed that he would be able to overthrow the present regime and establish himself as King within a period of two weeks. But before embarking on this operation, he made known his desire for either moral or material support from either the United States or England, in other words, a promise for the recognition of his government.

4. Regarding the above proposals, King Zog made clear to Source that he would not negotiate with any member of the American Embassy in Cairo, but preferred a special American representative.

5. Zog, in order to prove his earnestness, gave Source a list of communist agents in the Near and Middle East secured by members of his I.S., as well as a list of his own agents scattered throughout Europe, most of whom are Albanians in exile.

6. The writer does not know what action OSO took regarding the above-mentioned proposals.

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

SECRET CONTROL 007

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his approach  
to the MA?  
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SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH KING ZOG I ON MAY 5, 1949

A meeting was held with King Zog I at Alexandria, Egypt on May the 5th 1949. It was explained that the United States would look with favor upon the formation of a united front of all anti-Communist Albanians abroad. It was pointed out that refugees from certain other Soviet-dominated countries, such as Bulgaria and Hungary, had achieved a degree of unity that enabled their leaders to be accorded the moral right to be considered the spokesmen for their peoples. It is hoped that the Albanians abroad would be similarly successful.

King Zog was informed, that Midhat Frasherri had declared that he favored the formation of such a united front and would work actively towards this end. The hope was expressed, that Zog I would adopt a similar attitude. It was pointed out that King Zog could greatly assist in this work by endorsing the proposed front and by encouraging his followers to participate. Furthermore, it was felt that King Zog could make a most significant contribution to the unity of Albanians abroad by issuing a public declaration stating that he welcomed a united front under the chairmanship of Frasherri, that the question of the future regime of Albania would be left in abeyance pending a free plebiscite by the Albanian people, and in the meantime the royal prerogatives should be considered suspended.

King Zog was informed of the American opinion that Midhat Frasherri should be the leader of the united front and that his group should form the nucleus of the movement. It was the hope of the United States Government that Zog would wholeheartedly support this proposal the sole object of which is the establishment of a united front by Albanians abroad.

King Zog expressed himself as strongly in favor of the formation of a united front of all anti-communist Albanian exiles. He agreed that the question of the future regime should be left to the free choice of the Albanian people. King Zog accepted that Frasherri should be the leader of the united front and stated that he would support the movement. He felt that Frasherri should secure as associates a person of the legitimist party as well as a person of merit from the Independent party, so that the committee should have 2 moslems, one orthodox and one Roman catholic. King Zog stated that he could not declare his royal prerogatives in suspense as this would be unwise as well as disloyal to his pledge to the Albanian people. Such action, he said would jeopardize the continued recognition of Albanian anti Communist / royalist / diplomatic missions in Egypt, Turkey and elsewhere. More fundamentally, he felt that such action would be equivalent to laying aside the duty which the Albanian National Assembly had placed upon him before the Italian fascist occupation. He stated that the Assembly had upon that occasion charged him to represent the nation abroad until its liberation. He recommends for the sake of the movement that Frasherri should visit Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Italy, Greece and wherever there were significant groups of Albanian exiles, talk to them, secure from them written declarations of support, and thus become recognized as the leader of the united front. King Zog volunteered to help in the foregoing and to make a public declaration along the desired lines when it was considered useful.

King Zog expressed himself strongly on the importance that Midhat Frasherri should come to Egypt and receive from his lips the assurance of His help.

the 14th June 1949

/s/ ZOG I

confidential

ZOG I ROI DES ALBANAIS