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file 114.2
7/10
T. B.
1

3 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT: BGFRIEND Talks With [] and []
in Athens on 18 June and 2 July 1951.

1. According to [] the delays in removing the Dreamer W/T trainees from the camp has set FRIEND agent operations back approximately six weeks. Four teams (16 men) plus 14 W/T operators were in training as of 18 June and four teams were being rushed for infiltration during the moon period of July.
2. Certain FRIEND staff contracts need renewal. [] does not wish [] contract renewed since the latter is a troublemaker. Some of the other contracts may be difficult to renew unless we have something more to offer the men. [] is doing a very good job. He is reliable and honest and should certainly be paid no less than the others. In fact, he is better than [] was, and has been insisting on good work, promptness, neatness, etc, and is very fair in his handling of personnel. As a training officer he is the best that [] has seen anywhere and is highly recommended for permanent status.
3. With regards to the Committee recruiting team which is to visit other countries, there has been a great deal of delay due to lack of documents and Washington must do something to help. There are approximately 63 useable men in the Lavrion group of whom 30 are outstanding and 30 good. These men should be moved to a guard company as soon as practicable.
4. The reject problem is still very serious and is likely to continue giving us concern unless we can provide some mechanism for moving rejects to other areas. At the moment it would be desirable to return certain people from the guard company to IRO as they are of no use to us. This includes two recent deserters from the camp who were caught (actually, the problem of these two men has been solved, I understand, by firing them from the camp and turning them loose on the German economy.) The rejects who are

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being held by the Greeks in the Peloponnesus are being extremely troublesome because they are embittered and swear they'll get even with us. [] thinks they should be brought back someplace where they can talk with their Committee members as they are sending out a number of dangerous letters.

5. The men in the guard company are getting somewhat spoiled and are reaching the point where they actually demand certain brands of cigarettes.

6. In regard to support from EDICT Greece, [] complained that he had to attend to the entire administrative load, handling such matters as pay, supplies, etc., and is not getting enough administrative support [] . [] said that [] controls the U.S. crews and that he, [] , has complete responsibility for the foreign crew and would like to know what support [] supposed to give him in this connection. In regard to [] , he feels that she could be very helpful to [] and should be assigned to his office on a full-time basis. He would like this decided definitely once and for all. He also indicated that the wife of one of the commo men is willing to work as a secretary. In regard to the question of [] , I should like to know what our original intentions were with respect to her assignment [] . Please inform me in this matter.

7. [] is faced with serious problems in securing extension of visas, German passes and other papers in the case of Polish personnel. The Pole whom [] has at the training camp came without any papers at all and the German station did nothing to help him for weeks.

8. [] would like to have a couple of trainers [] to help him in training agents for special missions. These two trainers would be in addition to the regular training staff in Germany and would be used continuously in preparing selected men recruited from Lavrion.

9. With regard to the Matiani group, their training will have to be postponed until after the July moon period. Seven men will be trained in Athens and [] was to have a radio man for them.

10. [] has turned into a very good man and has been working as an intelligence officer in addition to other things.

11. Cover is a big problem for [] and he hopes that [] will solve this problem once and for all.

12. Men like

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12. Men like [] should be briefed to do any kind of work in addition to their normal assignment.

13. Identification cards for team members should be numbered and are needed in the field as soon as possible.

14. [] says that [] never showed the USAF liaison officer the paper which [] wrote on the subject of B-26's. I should like to have [] comments on this remark.

15. [] says that Capt. Holmes has done an excellent job in handling the vessel and he feels that it would be a mistake to replace him at this time. His accounting system has been good and is perfectly adequate according to []

16. [] feels that a Greek crew might be the best solution for our operational vessel, or we could use a Greek crew for normal missions and have special crews for specially hazardous assignments.

17. The Matiani teams will begin training about 20 July for the August moon period and will be dropped by parachute. They will consist of eight men, including Matiani himself.

18. Tewfik Kuka will be glad to assassinate anyone if asked to do so, but at the moment the Greeks are using him and don't want to let us have him for the next couple of months. He is in Albania now and considers himself too old to be brought out, so he will be glad to perform any little assignments that may be thrown his way through contacts available to []

19. IKHIB [] feels that the renewal of the Wangness Estate lease is a matter which must be cleared up as soon as possible. I wish this lease to be maintained as long as we can, pending the establishment of a reliable training organization in Germany outside our own sphere of operations.

20. [] expects to put a new group of Albanian trainees into the camp immediately after the completion of the present infiltrations and hopes to prepare them for infiltration in October, with W/T operators.

21. [] desires instructions for disposition of the radio announcement leaflets. Please send him a cable telling him to destroy them.

22.

and

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22. [] and [] should take care with them if possible.

23. [] temporary duty orders expired in April. [] requested action by [] 5293 in May and desires a permanent change of station.

24. The question of a meteorologist is very important for Athens operations. We must develop a way for reimbursing the man presently employed as he is doing a great deal of work on his own free time. Are we authorized to pay him directly, as there is no way of handling this as overtime work within CAA? Can we pay him a regular retainer fee? Sometimes he works for three days at a stretch in preparation for an operation. He is often called on for assistance and advice at least three times a week and simply cannot be expected to keep on giving us his own time free of charge. I should like this matter investigated immediately and a proper arrangement worked out with our financial people.

25. With reference to [], [] says we will lose him on the 1st of September if we cannot pay him more, as he can go on active duty as a Lt. Colonel anytime he wishes. [] thinks he is worth about \$7200 and is not asking for anything unreasonable that other people around Athens do not receive. His loss would be a serious matter to []

26. [] in Germany is not recommended by [] for permanent status as he is spoiled and feels the world owes him a living. If he does not want to renew his contract, somebody else can undoubtedly be found.

27. As of 2 July, [] was having difficulty in finding a W/T operator to be prepared for infiltration with the Matiani group.

28. With regard to propaganda supply drops, the field is anxious for Washington to develop some means for packing propaganda supplies such as food, needles, medicines, etc. in such a way as to simplify handling in the field.

29. There is an alien interrogation center in Greece where the Greeks and OSO interrogate new border crossers. [] wonders if arrangements could be made for direct interrogation by OPC personnel since OSO has neither the time nor the staff to look after our interests properly. Please see if something can be worked out here to permit us to instruct the field to set up a joint system.

30. [] wondered

30. [] wondered whether we ought not to concentrate on the central portion of Albania in order to get away from the Yugoslav-dominated area. I personally see no advantages in pulling back as any such action represents a retreat in the face of pressure from the Yugoslav-sponsored Committee.

31. [] is pushing UNICEF aid for Albania. Please find out more about this.

32. FIEND could make good use of radio homing devices. What are the chances of getting some?

33. [] confirmed the need for having [] assigned to his office on a full-time basis.

[]

OMY/clc

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