

**TOP SECRET**

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2H  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

20 JUL 1953

**MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)**

**VIA: Chief, Political and Psychological Warfare**

**SUBJECT: Resumption of Teken Food and Article Drops to the  
Balkan Satellites for Psychological Purposes.**

**REFERENCE: Top Secret Memo for ID/P from AG/SE, dtd 21 April 1953;  
Same Subject (TS 88071).**

1. It is the considered view of SE division that the proposal reportedly made by Mr. G. D. Jackson on 15 July 1953, with respect to the dropping of food to the Albanian people for psychological purposes, should be favorably regarded. Mr. Jackson's suggestion was limited apparently to the infiltration of food by means of balloons; however, SE division in 1952 carried out two of a proposed series of teken food and article drops into Albania from sterile aircraft, using both free-fall packages and four-foot cloth parachutes with cloth containers holding five No. 2 size cans.

2. As explained in the referenced memorandum, subsequent deliveries both of food and articles of common utility were banned by the previous Director of Central Intelligence as a result of the Bacteriological Warfare campaign then at its height against the United States. Although the official Albanian reaction to our two propaganda supply drops was quick and virulent, reports from within the country indicated that the drops had met with outstanding success among the population and that the impact of this Communist campaign on the Albanian people was negligible. It may be of interest to note that the food drop was preceded by a cabled offer on the part of the National Committee for Free Albania to Premier Enver Hoxha, offering its aid to the Albanian people at a time of great hardship; the offer, of course, was ignored.

3. Ample stocks for a supply drop are presently available in the field, as well as a large supply of inexpensive cloth parachutes, cloth containers and cans. An electric canning machine is at the disposal. Samples of this equipment are available in the division. Our experience indicates that propaganda supply drops can be effected with relative ease and economy by means of the sterile aircraft available. Moreover, the Bacteriological Warfare campaign of the previous year appears to have lost its early momentum completely. In any case, precautionary instructions would be enclosed with each container to alert the recipient to the possibility of Communist tampering. The use of sealed cans, however, reduces this latent hazard to a minimum.

4. The referenced

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4. The referenced memorandum points out also that the British, with whom our Albanian operations are closely coordinated, have on hand a large quantity of plastic article containers, which were intended to be dropped early in 1953 in the name of the National Committee for Free Albania. Although strongly favoring propaganda supply drops as an effective and tangible form of psychological warfare, the British I.S. has nevertheless acquiesced to the CIA ban on such drops while periodically renewing its request to us to resume our former program.

5. In view of the situation now prevailing throughout the Soviet orbit, and the prominence being attached to the whole question of food aid to captive populations, it is believed that the moment is opportune to launch again a series of propaganda supply drops which would include food and perhaps certain utilitarian articles. These would constitute a tangible follow-up to the recent and successful leaflet drops over the three Balkan satellites, Albania, Bulgaria and Rumania.

6. It is, therefore, the earnest request of this division that the present ban on propaganda supply drops of all types be lifted immediately, in order to permit both ourselves and the British to proceed at once with maximum exploitation of this form of psychological operation, which has already been tested and found to be effective.

15/  
[ Acting Chief, SE ]

SE/PP [ ] arm  
17 July 1953

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