

ALBANIA

September 1953

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Radio Free Greece on 14 September urged the Greeks to reestablish diplomatic relations with Albania. There was no indication elsewhere that either the Greek or the Albanian Government was considering such a move.

On 28 September the Yugoslav Government reported officially that its negotiations with Albania to settle border incidents had been broken off in a chilly atmosphere of disagreement. The first meeting of the Yugoslav-Albanian Commission took place on 17 August.

Arrangements were completed with the State Department and the Immigration & Naturalization Service for the admission to the U.S. of ex-King Zog and his family under a waiver of documents by the Attorney General. A difficulty has arisen, however, in that on 26 September Egyptian Army and police units acting upon orders from the Ministry of the Interior, entered Zog's residence in Alexandria and conducted a three-hour search of the premises. Certain financial and other papers were confiscated although Zog's personal files on Albania were spared. A body search of Zog and his family was demanded but was withdrawn when Zog threatened forceful opposition. It is believed that the purpose of the raid was an attempt to uncover evidence of black market dealings and political activity with anti-Naguib elements which would permit action by the Egyptian authorities to expel Zog and his entourage from Egypt without money or property. Zog, through his contact with the Alexandria Station, has requested that measures be taken to safeguard him and his family. Zog was reportedly assured by the Egyptian Foreign Minister that the incident would not affect the arrangements now being completed for the issuance of exit visas and permission to export money, although the Foreign Minister stated the affair was outside his jurisdiction since the action had been ordered by the Minister of the Interior.

During September the National Committee for Free Europe notified the members of the NCFA that owing to budget cuts financial support of the NCFA would cease on 1 October 1953. At the same time, Radio Free Europe Albanian programs were discontinued. Although financial support of the NCFA will be continued through other channels, salaries will be cut and other support will be materially reduced. This change comes at an opportune time as the possibility of discontinuance of all financial support can be used to discipline recalcitrant members of the NCFA and strengthen future control.

2. [ ] SYNOPSIS

The Albanian Project OBOPUS is directed [ ] by the Project [ ]. A [ ] handles the interrogation and screening of Albanian refugees.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (OBOPUS)

A. Paramilitary

(1) On the night of 7/8 September, the five-man Fig team was reinfilitrated into Albania. The team reported by W/T that the zone of entry was quiet.

(2) An air

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(2) An air resupply mission to the Apple/2 base team was made on the night of 19 September. The primary purpose was to supply this team with a new radio and batteries. 1500 pounds of leaflets were dropped over Albania as a diversionary measure.

(3) In addition to resupplying Apple/2, on 19 September one standard resupply container was dropped to the island DZ which is reported to be the headquarters of Hil Shllaku, the alleged leader of a 35,000-man resistance net. In an attempt to verify the statement made by Genc Korcha regarding Hil Shllaku's activities, as reported in the August country summary, Korcha was moved from Rome to Athens for further interrogation. Concurrently, efforts are being made to get in touch with Zef Shllaku, who fled from Yugoslavia with Korcha, and Professor Prenk Gruda, both in the British Zone of Austria, and have them cross the border into the American Zone and report to the CIC. The CIC has been advised to expect their arrival. Zef Shllaku and Gruda should be able to provide additional details on Hil Shllaku's activities and confirmation of Korcha's story.

(4) The British informed us that their Valuable/Lucid team was successfully reinfilitrated on the night of 29 August.

B. Political-Psychological - (OBOPUS)

(1) The SE representative in Rome reported that during September he held exploratory talks with Mr. Ali Klissura and Mr. Koco Muko, leaders of the Balli Kombetar Organization, the right-wing faction which splintered from the Balli Kombetar Party in late 1950. Efforts have been made over the past two years to broaden the NCFAs to include representatives of the BKO, so far without success. It was suggested to Klissura and Muko that they submit a written plan for cooperating with the NCFAs.

(2) The members of the Executive Committee of the NCFAs, who were dissatisfied with the text of a letter sent by the Secretary of State replying to a letter sent by the President of the NCFAs under our direction, refused to permit publication of the exchange in Shqipëria, the Committee newspaper. The Committee objected to Mr. Dulles' statement that the problem of future relationships between a free and independent Albania and its neighbors is a matter primarily for bilateral discussion and solution. In a subsequent action the SE representative in Rome reported that he was forced to destroy all copies of the 15 September issue of Shqipëria because of an inflammatory feature article concerning the Greek-Albanian border question. The newspaper was reprinted without the article. Both our representative and his British counterpart have taken a firm stand with the Committee on this insubordinate effort to by-pass their editorial control. They are seriously concerned over the occurrence and have suggested that we should be prepared to cope with a possible break-up of the NCFAs as presently constituted.

(3) On the night of 9/10 September a successful leaflet drop was made over Albania. Approximately 300,000 leaflets and an unspecified quantity of sewing needles attached to leaflets were dropped. The needles were the first items dropped since the policy revision permitting the resumption of food and article drops over Albania.

(4) The monitoring station at Bari reported continued jamming of the clandestine radio, the Voice of Free Albania. The field believes the jamming is due to the defection appeal being repeated daily, and states there are indications that the jamming emanates from Bulgaria. In spite of the jamming, the regular broadcast schedule was maintained.

(5) The NCFAs semi-monthly newspaper, Shqipëria, was printed in Rome on schedule. The miniature edition of Shqipëria, formerly used in air drops, has been discontinued but a digest version is now printed monthly and will be used in air drops over Albania.