

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA-14499

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

11 MAR 1955

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: _____

FROM :

1250

MICROFILMED
JUN 8 1970
DOC. MICRO. SER.

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBHUNT

SPECIFIC— Status Report on Agent Standbys
15 January - 28 February 1955

REF: SGAA 13717, 21 January 1955

Action Requested: None. For Headquarters information and files.

Synopsis:

- a. AILICH relocated in another job at Megra.
- b. AIRWISE examination by ear specialists.
- c. O.R.T. School incident involving W/Ts.

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

Account of Developments:

1. There are eight OBHUNT agent standbys.
Barkei SEIT
2. AILICH called this office on 17 January and informed he had been released from his job at the chicken farm. This was due to his boss being in debt and no longer able to pay AILICH his salary of 500 drachmae per month.
3. AILICH remained in town for two days until an order from BGCANTAR was obtained instructing the police in Villia to assist AILICH in obtaining a job in that area. AILICH was dispatched to Villia and instructed to contact this office again in one week. While in Villia AILICH met his former boss from Ence who advised him a friend, also a chicken farm operator, in Megra was looking for help. He provided AILICH with a letter of recommendation.
4. The job in Megra was accepted by AILICH and on 15 February contacted him as per previous arrangement. AILICH was not at all happy with his new job for various reasons. induced him to exercise a little more patience and if conditions did not change, we would re-locate him until we were ready to commence his training. He was advanced some of his salary and also interrogated him on the questions raised in the latest Headquarters dispatch on WEDNESDAY. This will be covered in a field dispatch to be written shortly by

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Skander ~~SLACK~~ no 20!

Xhemal HOXHA

5. RNORDAIN and AIRSLACK were contacted nine times since the last report. On 29 January they were met at the Cave by [] and [] The men were passed their pay and a general discussion was held on future activities. Both RNORDAIN and AIRSLACK continue to enjoy good health and are living quietly in Athens.

6. [] visited both men again on a routine call and passed them the latest Shqipëria and Flamuri newspapers. !

7. AIRWISE and AIRBORNE are still residing in Menidi, a suburb of Athens, and have been contacted regularly twice a week. [] and [] met with AIRWISE on 20 January and again on 31 January when pay and newspapers were passed to him. On 26 February, [] and [] met AIRWISE at the Cave again for pay purposes.

8. On 25 January, AIRWISE was examined by two ear specialists, professors at the Athens University. They both diagnosed an intense deafness of the right ear and further stated AIRWISE had a scoliosis of the nasal septum. Before treatment could be started on his ears, an operation would be necessary to straighten the septum. AIRWISE will not agree to an operation as he feels it unnecessary and would only bring him more trouble. He is never bothered by his condition and does not feel handicapped by his partial deafness.

ASTRA [] Renue KALLA []

9. AIRBLOWN, AIRWAY and AIPUMP were by far the most active of our standbys. The following is a chronological report of their activities:

10. January 22. AIRBLOWN called this office and [] met him at a pre-arranged rendezvous. All three men were reported in good health and enthusiastic with the O.R.T. School.

11. January 29. AIPUMP telephoned and was met by [] as arranged with AIRBLOWN at last meeting. [] passed AIPUMP pay for the three W/Ts and also some books in Albanian. AIPUMP reported all the men as being in fine health, and personally speaking, stated he was extremely pleased with the school and the excellent cover for status it provided.

12. February 8. Late in the afternoon USEP informed us some of our boys were involved in a disturbance involving the director of the O.R.T. School. A call was placed immediately to the hotel at which the W/Ts are staying, but they could not be contacted.

13. February 9. [] in a routine call at BGCANTAR was advised of the incident and also that they held the Albanians blameless. In the meantime, [] had contacted the W/Ts and arranged to see them at noon. Their story of the incident agreed with that obtained from the BGCANTAR office and USEP and is as follows:

a. During the mid-day break in classes on 7 February, AIRBLOWN was taking pictures of the other students at their request. The Director of the school rushed out of his office and using foul and abusive language and in a fit of rage forbade them to use the camera. The outcome of this action resulted in AIRBLOWN being told he was dismissed from the school and the rest of the Albanians refusing to attend classes as a protest to this action.

b. No classes were resumed the following morning and on seeking the advice of the gendarmerie at the school, the men were told to report the incident to BGCANTAR, who in turn, sent them to USEP. At USEP they were advised to return to school where they learned they were definitely dismissed.

c. On returning to the school they were informed by the gendarmerie on duty that BGCANTAR had sent instructions for AIRBLOWN and Barthul Qyteza to report to the local police station to file a complaint against the director. (C)

d. All the Albanians attending the school have been sent back to Lavrion except for AIRBLOWN, AIRWAY and AIPUMP. The three men were placed on a standby basis and instructed to telephone this office daily.

e. During the interview with our agents and subsequent talks with BGCANTAR it became apparent that BGCANTAR is compiling evidence against the Director in an effort to have him dismissed from the O.R.T. School. In addition to suspected Communist activities, BGCANTAR believes that this individual's administration of the school has been with so much lack of judgement and fairness to the refugees that its purpose has been entirely negated. Most of the refugees have come to hate this individual for his methods including psychological pressure. At times he has threatened various refugees with dismissal, adding that he is in a position to black-ball them and thus render their emigration impossible. A copy of a report by a USEP employee to his chief reporting similar occurrences and complaints in the past, was reviewed by this office.

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14. February 12. At the meeting of 9 February, AIRWAY informed [] he had received word from WCC to report concerning emigration. [] instructed him to report and advise WCC he wasn't interested in emigrating until he finished his course at O.R.T. AIRWAY did this and [] and [] contacted him to learn the results. [] used this opportunity to discuss emigration with AIRWAY. AIRWAY does not wish to emigrate now as he has dedicated himself to working for his country. [] was able to convince him of the probability of his services some day being terminated and the advisability of preparing for the future.⁽²⁾ He agreed and stated he would emigrate only if we instructed him to do so.

15. February 26. Since the incident at the O.R.T. School, the W/Ts have been contacting this office daily and arrangements were being made to place the men in another course at the benchfitters school located in Pireaus. This has finally been accomplished and the W/Ts are reporting to BGCANTAR for instructions prior to commencing the course in a few days.

16. AICCOOL is still retained in Rafina and is in good health and fair spirits. We have continued the practice of bringing him into Athens to spend the day at irregular intervals. Permission has now been obtained for AICCOOL to ride the bus from Athens to Rafina once a week so this was started on 25 February.

17. We continue to intercept all of AICCOOL's incoming mail beside the censoring of his outgoing letters. In the last letter received from Yugoslavia, his brother informs him he has left Kumanovo for a camp in Serbia with many other Albanians and eventually expects to leave for Canada. He urges AICCOOL to start proceedings for emigration.

18. As a result of a thorough review of the problem prior to and during [] last visit to [] we have felt it advisable to maintain status quo in relation to our present standby agents and not further reduce their number. This decision was reached on the basis of the three FI missions planned and the requirements to maintain a cadre of PM personnel.

- (1) BGCANTAR, as a result of our objection, assured us the men would not become involved in any court action or police registry listing.
- (2) It would be to his advantage to maintain his listing with the emigration agencies and by stating preference for U.S. emigration the necessary processing would indefinitely delay his departure date.

RSO
 LAZ./RSO/nkr
 8 March 1955
 Distribution:
 3 - Wash
 1 - Chrono
 1 - XO 2 - OBOPUS (1 ret.)

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