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Chief, SE

Attn:

FROM

SUBJECT: GENERAL-

OBOPUS/PARAM

Willow Team Debriefing SPECIFIC-

REF: SGAW-2767, 9 October 1953

SGAA-5418, KAPOK-1854, 7 August 1953

SGAW-740, 30 December 1952

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DATE:

- 1. We appreciated Headquarters comments on above named subject and we shall attempt to answer the questions raised in 1st reference. Field is pleased to be able to assist in supplying any additional information on operations which Headquarters feels is needed.
- 2. Re para 1., 1st reference. As stated in Willow debriefing of 1952, the team had contacted one Sabadin Gjinomath. We informed Headquarters of this contact and requested any information that Headquarters might have. "In third reference Headquarters advised against approaching Gjinomath unless subject's bona fides could be established. Because field failed in its efforts to gain any additional information on subject and Headquarters was unable to supply any information, Willow Team was instructed to avoid any contact with Gjinomath during this operation.
- 3. Re para 3. of first reference. We have not to date been able to gather any further information on the Yugoslav team in question.
- 4. Re para 4. of first reference. We appreciate Headquarters' guidance and OBOPUS Reports Section's comments. We would, however, like to point out that in para 4. of second reference we stated that "the positive information gained from this operation was very slight". As to the other items that appear dubious to the reports section, with your permission we should like to further comment on them:
- Claims of 2nd Division stationed in Korca: On numerous occasions this writer has interrogated refugees or debriefed teams who give different identities to the Korca division. It was, however, not fully clear to the field how one such item could bring about so many varied answers. However, when Sgt. Riza Dule Mehmetaj was questioned on the identity of the Korca division, he informed this writer that from time to time the number of the unit is changed in order to throwoff "enemy agents." To our best knowledge Willow's source in this case was reporting a fact which was true at that particular time.

The report that

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b. The report that lek now sell at 25 to the dollar: We in the field found this a little difficult to believe but this fact has been further confirmed by Fig Tree Team who stated that "in exchange one does not receive more than 30 lek to the dollar." If on the other hand one buys "purchase tickets" with his dollars, the rate is around 60 lek. Persons are then able to buy only in the special dollar stores.

- c. Butter and cheese are more expensive than meat. We are not aware of the current butter and meat prices in the Headquarters area, but we seem to recall that some cuts of meat were cheaper than butter at home. We certainly find that to be the case in the local commissary and the Greek market.
- 5. Re para 5. of first reference. We agree with you on your statement except that the fault does not lie with the team's lack of knowledge in collection of information, but it is rather the fault of the team's contacts who are unable to differentiate between information and hearsay or rumor. We have taken steps to improve this situation by teaching Willow how to instruct its contacts. In the future, each contact will be required to supply only those items of information which he is best qualified to report on due to his knowledge, position or association with the subject matter.

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Distribution:

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