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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3 B 2 B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007

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21 June 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACTING CHIEF,

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS STAFF

ATTENTION:

AC/P & O/PP

SUBJECT:

Project OBTUSE Renewal for FY 1955

- 1. The Information Coordination Division affirms that the objectives outlined in the subject proposal are in conformity with U.S. and C.I.A. policies and goals and concurrence in this project's renewal is restricted to this affirmation.
- 2. PP/ICD's concurrence contains this limitation because the subject project does not include a section reporting the accomplishments and effectiveness of OBTUSE during the past fiscal year, data that are considered necessary for evaluation of a continuing project.

Chief Information Coordination Division

### PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1.	Cyse/Iv	24 May 1954
2.	SE/CPR	24 May 1954
3•	SE/GAT.	25 may 1954
4.	V SE/FI/CE	IT may 52/
5•		26 may 54
6.	FI/Plans/Cover	28 hay sy
7.	STC	9 June 37
8.	PP/OPS	
9•	EPP	
10.	DDP/ADMIN	zfferne ;- 4
11.	DDP	

Project Cryptonym or Subject:	OBTUSE				
Sub-Project Cryptonym or Identifica	ation: None				
Amendment No. None	·				
Originating Division: SE					
a. Division Chief:	Ext 2445				
b. Branch Chief :	Ext 671				
c. Case Officer :	Ext 671				
Target Area: Albania					
Type of Project: PP					
Financial Mechanism: Direct Purchase of Service					
Funds Requested:					
Current Status: Approved as BGFIEND 22 June 1949 by ADPC					

#### 1. OBJECTIVE

To further the PP Mission through the use of leaflets and printed matter in addition to small quantities of selected consumer goods, to be air-dropped over Albania at intervals sufficiently frequent to keep alive the spirit of passive resistance and the hope of eventual liberation.

### 2. ORIGIN AND POLICY GUIDANCE:

- a. Origin. BGFIEND Project Outline approved 22 June 1949 by ADPC.
  OPC Country Plan for Albania, Operations Annex B, Tab C-Political
  Warfare Operations.
  NSC Directives 10/2; 58; 58/2, 5412.
- b. Whence proposed. Project originated in Headquarters CIA/opc.

#### 3. SITUATION:

Since 1948, when the Tito regime broke with the Kremlin, Albania has been isolated from direct land connection with the other Soviet satellites. This, in addition to the ruggedness of the terrain and the tradition of clandestine activity by the Albanians, particularly the mountain tribesmen in the north, appeared to make Albania a promising target for clandestine activity aimed at the eventual overthrow of the present Communist regime. The presence of a considerable number of Albanian refugees in Europe suggested the development of a political center outside Albania composed of representatives of non-totalitarian elements, sympathetic with U.S. policy objectives in the Balkans, to serve as a rallying point for anti-Communist elements inside Albania. The British and American Services in the summer of 1949 were responsible for the formation of the National Committee for Free Albania, a political center of representative democratic Albanian refugees, to serve as cover for covert activities for projected operations in Albania. Since that time, both PP and PM operations have been conducted in the name of the NCFA; it was a joint U.S.-U.K. decision that leaflets would be the most effective means of reaching the largest audience and a graphic demonstration of the capabilities of the NCFA.

#### 4. PROPOSAL:

At irregular intervals varying from two to eight weeks, leaflets or other printed matter (e.g., a digest of the NCFA newspaper Shqiperia) are to be dropped over Albania by sterile CIA aircraft. In addition, at appropriate intervals, food and hard goods will be included in the leaflet drops. In addition, propaganda material will be distributed by other appropriate means, including balloons, mail, etc.

SECRET

### 5. OPERATIONAL OUTLINE:

- a. Sub-proposals or tasks: Leaflets will be used at the appropriate time as a defection appeal to Communist officials and as a call to such action by the population as may be deemed appropriate at any given time.
- b. Key Personnel:
- (1) Leaflet preparation is supervised jointly by CIA and MI-6 officers in Athens.
- (2) Packing and preparing for distribution of food and hard goods is done by the \_ \_ Psych and Albanian branch personnel; leaflets are packed for airdrop in Athens.
- c. Indigenous Groups and Leaders: Leaflets and the digest of Shqiperia are prepared by the NCFA Propaganda Workshop in Athens.  $\overline{d}$ . Target Groups:
- (1) The people of Albania are a target for the propaganda leaflets and propaganda supply drops.
  - (2) Communist officials are the target for defection appeals.
- e. Duration: Project OBTUSE is of indefinite duration, its termination being predicated on a change in U.S. policy which would require discontinuance of leaflet and propaganda supply drops.
- f. Graphic illustrations: See attached.

### 6. SECURITY:

- a. Cover. All leaflets and propaganda supply drops are made in the name of the NCFA.
- b. Knowledgeability. Members of the NCFA are aware of official U.S. but not of CIA interest as such.
- c. Operational security.
  Rome and Athens NCFA personnel are fully aware of production of leaflets but have no knowledge of operations concerned with their airdrop over Albania.
- d. Risks.
  - (1) Loss of aircraft and capture of air crews.
  - (2) Embarrassment of U.S. Government by proof of U.S. intervention and backing of resistance elements.
- e. Personnel Disposal. Project termination would present a personnel disposal problem for the propaganda staff and attempts at resettlement would have to be made.
- f. Disaster Plan. Key NCFA personnel are included in the over-all disaster/evacuation plan for Italy and the Mediterranean Theater but this does not include evacuation to the U.S.

### 7. COORDINATION:

a. Relation to other projects. OBTUSE is a PP project under the Albanian Country Program and as such is directly related to the other FI, PP and PM projects being directed against Albania.

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b.	Significance within over-all program in area: OBTUSE is an integral part of the Albanian Country Program.
c.	Extent of coordination:
	(1) All OBTUSE activities are carried out by the Albanian ration Staff in under direction of the Chief of the PP aff and the Senior Representative, Air Support
	tion provides aircraft and crews.
	(2) USAF coordination for flight clearance.
+he	(3) Texts of leaflets receive joint U.SBritish approval and whole leaflet and propaganda supply program is coordinated with
	6. The Greek Government acquiesces in the use of airfield facili-
	s and grants permission for overflights.
CON	TROL:
a.	Nature of: Content of leaflets is reviewed and supervised and leaflets are printed by CIA. Program is financed by CIA. Aircraft are American-owned and controlled.
b.	
c.	Reports. OBTUSE activities will be reported in accordance with Field Regulation 50-11.
BUD	GET DATA:
a.	Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1955:
b.	Availability of CIA funds required. Funds budgeted for FY 55.
c.	Non-CIA funds. None.
d. e.	
<b>c.</b>	and to be accounted for by regular financial accountings in accordance with CIA regulations.
f.	
g.	Future requirements: Expenses will continue at same level
	through 1956.
SUP	PORT:
a.	Total CIA personnel:
b.	Materiel: Presses and paper for leaflets. Foodstuffs, hard
	goods, parachutes and containers for propaganda supply drops;
c.	canning machine.  Communications: In-flight communications with base.
d.	Other CIA support: Use of CIA aircraft, warehouse, packaging and printing facilities of Printing of the
	leaflets by GARD/TSS in Headquarters, and Shqiperia digest in TAD/TSS. Germany, when necessary.

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### BUDGET DATA:

### Total OBOPUS obligations for previous fiscal years:

FY 1949 <b>–</b> 1950	· .	⊏.	ニ
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1952		C	
1953	•	C	
1954		6	1
1955			

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e. Support required from other United States agencies: USAF for AWS and flight clearances.

#### 11. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

a. Current Status: Operative.

- b. Commitments: Committed to drops at frequent intervals until such time as the State Department and British Foreign Office jointly agree the leaflet program is no longer feasible or advisable.
- c. Effectiveness: Refugees have both seen and heard of leaflets being dropped and report they are passed from hand to hand in spite of penalties imposed by the Communist regime for being in possession of them. The NCFA is known to the Albanian people through the leaflet program. The Albanian Government has publicly denounced the leaflet and food supply program and declared it unlawful to retrieve the articles dropped.
- d. Anticipated results: It is anticipated that the leaflet program in conjunction with OBTEST will sustain the hope of the people of Albania for ultimate liberation.
- e. Evaluation: Through refugee and agent reports from within the country as well as through the number, type and degree of Government counter measures.
- f. Policy questions: Policy is established by the State Department and Foreign Office and is under constant review.
- g. Congress. NA
- h. Extra-Agency action. NA
- i. Proprietary companies. NA
- j. Special considerations. NA
- k. Liquidation. NA

SECURITY INFORMATION

PROJECT CRYPTONYM  OBTUSE						
PROJECT FIN	FISCAL PE	FISCAL PERIOD COVERED				
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET	1 J	uly 195	4 THRU 30 JUNE 1	95 5		
RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR D	IVISION SE		CASE OFFICER			
	1	A. PERSONNE	L REQUIREMENTS			
Indicate number and typer related employee benefi	e of personnel re ts. Include ever	equired and estima yone paid from p	ated total compensa oject.	tion for salary, a	llowances, travel and	
TYPE		UMBER L FOREIGN NATION	AL BASE SALARY	ESTIMATED COMPEN	SATION TOTAL	
STAFF EMPLOYEES						
STAFF AGENTS						
CAREER AGENTS				<b>+</b>		
CONTRACT AGENTS	1		\$2900		\$2500 2400 Q	
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS						
DETAILED PERSONNEL						
FIELD AGENTS						
MILITARY						
ALL OTHER						
TOTAL A.	None					
			RIEL AND EQUIPMENT			
Indicate amount require	ed in applicable s	paces. Attach co	omplete supporting			
COMMO	CHEMICAL		QUARTERMASTER SUF	PLIES OTHER	SUPPLIES	
\$	\$		\$	;(		
MEDICAL	ORDNANCE		SPECIAL DEVICES OTHER EQUIPMENT			
\$	\$		\$	\$		
TOTAL B.						
Indicate volume and na of information, etc.	ture of expenses s		ATIONAL EXPENSES taince of two opera	tional houses abro	oad (2) spot purchase	
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TOTAL C.						
D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS						
If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained.						
NA.						
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TOTAL D.						
TOTAL FUND	REQUIREMENTS (A	+ B + C + D) \$	$\subset \supset V$			

FORM NO. 59-25 JUN 1952

### OBTUSE

### Financial Date (Section B)

Paper and Ink	•	•	\$20,000
Food and Hard Goods	•	•	10,000
Packing Materials	•		7,000

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### SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS  APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED					
Monthly Payments					
FORM REQUIRED Lira					
X U. S. DOLLARS X FOREIGN (SPECI	FY) NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)				
SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION					
NA.					
F. SPECIAL REQUI	REMENTS				
adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specifi	cationally the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)				
NA					
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