

DD/P Project Approval Sheet

Project Cryptonym

~~OBOPUS~~

Amendment No.

~~Project Cryptonym~~

OBTUSE

Originating Division

SE

Approved

~~Disapproved~~

[]

[Signature]

J- 16 July '54

Comments:

* Project Renewal for FY '55 per CSI 234-1 approved in

the amount of \$39,400, subject to the availability of funds.

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

SECRET

SENIOR STAFF PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. Identification

a. Project Cryptonym: **OBTUSE**

d. Division: **SE**

b. Sub-project Cryptonym:

e. Branch: **1**

c. Amendment No.

f. Desk: **Albania**

2. STAFF COORDINATION

Element	Signature	Copy#	Date	Date of Memorandum
a. DD/P-Adm (R&A)	[Signature]	1	17 June	
b. C-DD/P-Adm		1	24 June	
c. DD/P-C/I&R		1	9 June	
d. AMD		1	(CON COVER SHEET 18 JUNE 54)	
e. PP/Press		2	18 JUN	
f. PP/ICD		2	22 JUN	23 JUNE
g. PP/P&O/PR		3	17 JUN	
h. AC-PP/P&O		1	15 July 54	
i.				
j.				
k.				
l.				
m.				

3. Concurred in and Forwarded to DD/P by

[Signature]

July 54
Date

Conditions: (This space reserved for P and DD/P-Admin)

SECRET

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

SECRET

SECRET

PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1.	<input type="checkbox"/> O/SE/IV <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>24 May 1954</u> Date
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> SE/CFR <input type="checkbox"/> fo	<u>24 May 1954</u>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> SE/CAT. <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>25 May 1954</u>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> SE/PI/CR <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>25 May 54</u>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> J C/SE <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>26 May 54</u>
6.	FI/Plans/Cover <i>agd</i>	<u>28 May 54</u>
7.	STC <i>agd</i>	<u>9 June 54</u>
8.	PP/OPS	_____
9.	EPP	_____
10.	<input type="checkbox"/> DDP/ADMIN <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>29 June 54</u>
11.	DDP	_____

SECRET

SECRET

Project Cryptonym or Subject: OBTUSE

Sub-Project Cryptonym or Identification: 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

SECRET

SECRET

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. BGFRIEND 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 NCFR; 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 NCFR.

4. PROPOSAL:

At irregular intervals varying from two to eight weeks, leaflets or other printed matter (e.g., a digest of the NCFR newspaper Shqipëria) 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

SECRET

-2-

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 Shqipëria are prepared by the NCFPA Propaganda Workshop in Athens.
- 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~~. ^{distribution:} P.P.
- f. Graphic illustrations: See attached.

6. SECURITY:

- a. Cover. All leaflets and propaganda supply drops are made in the name of the NCFPA.
- b. Knowledgeability. Members of the NCFPA are aware of official U.S. but not of CIA interest as such.
- c. Operational security. Rome and Athens NCFPA 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 NCFPA 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.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

- 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 Operation Staff in under direction of the Chief of the PP Staff and the Senior Representative, Air Support Section provides aircraft and crews.
 - (2) USAF coordination for flight clearance.
 - (3) Texts of leaflets receive joint U.S.-British approval and the whole leaflet and propaganda supply program is coordinated with MI-6. The Greek Government acquiesces in the use of airfield facilities and grants permission for overflights.

8. CONTROL:

- 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. Administrative plan. NA
- c. Reports. OBTUSE activities will be reported in accordance with Field Regulation 50-11.

9. BUDGET DATA:

- a. Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1955:
- (See attached financial breakdown).
- b. Availability of CIA funds required. Funds budgeted for FY 55.
- c. Non-CIA funds. None.
- d. Foreign currency. Yes.
- e. Funding. Funds to be released to case officer for direct payment and to be accounted for by regular financial accountings in accordance with CIA regulations.
- f. Financial history. All operating expenses have been paid by OBOPUS (formerly BGFRIEND) funds. See page 3a.
- g. Future requirements: Expenses will continue at same level through 1956.

10. SUPPORT:

- a. Total CIA personnel: Albanian operation staff on board and working.
- b. Materiel: Presses and paper for leaflets. Foodstuffs, hard goods, parachutes and containers for propaganda supply drops; canning machine.
- c. 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 Shqipëria digest in TAD/TSS, Germany, when necessary.

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 a -

BUDGET DATA:

Total OBOPUS obligations for previous fiscal years:

FY 1949 - 1950	[]
1951	[]
1952	[]
1953	[]
1954	[]
1955	[]

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

- 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 NCFR 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

SECRET

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

PROJECT CRYPTONYM **OBFOUSE**

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA

FISCAL PERIOD COVERED

1 July 195⁴ THRU 30 JUNE 195⁵

*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION

RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION **SE**

CASE OFFICER

A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project.

TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION		
	U. S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER	TOTAL
STAFF EMPLOYEES					
STAFF AGENTS					
CAREER AGENTS					
CONTRACT AGENTS	1		\$2500		\$2500 2400
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS					
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.	None				

B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT

Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.

COMMO \$	CHEMICAL \$	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES \$	OTHER SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/>
MEDICAL \$	ORDNANCE \$	SPECIAL DEVICES \$	OTHER EQUIPMENT \$
TOTAL B. <input type="checkbox"/>			

C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.

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

TOTAL D.

TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$

SECRET

OBTUSE

Financial Data (Section B)

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

SECRET

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

Monthly Payments

FORM REQUIRED

Lira

U. S. DOLLARS

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

NA

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specifically the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

NA

SECRET