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BGFLEND BRIEFING, 22 AUGUST 1950

1. The original project was approved by the Department of State in May 1949. As originally conceived and approved, the Albanian operation had as a minimum objective the development of the internal conflict in Albania sufficient to reduce materially the ability of Albania to support Greek guerrillas. The maximum objective was the overthrow of the present Hoxha regime.

2. Since the initiation of the Albanian operation and the formulation of the objectives, two major changes bearing on the operation and the objectives have occurred. The first is the cessation, for the time being at least, of guerrilla warfare in Greece, and the second the intensification of pressure from the Communists upon the Tito regime together with the corresponding shift in US policy toward Tito directed to maintaining the regime as a stumbling block to future Soviet expansionist designs.

3. Up to 6 December 1949, the Albanian operation was a joint US-British undertaking. On 6 September the Department of State and the British Foreign Office agreed that the maximum objective was to be temporarily abandoned as a result of ~~OPERATIONAL TERMS EXISTING~~ at that time. Presently, there is policy coordination with the British but complete operational disengagement.

4. Progress of BGFLEND

a. Objectives - The project envisaged and is being conducted along four main lines of operation.

(1) The establishment and political exploitation of the NCFA and related problems.

(2) The establishment and organization of propaganda media including broadcast setups.

(3) The organization of Albanian agents for infiltration into Albania for purposes of operational reconnaissance and for the establishment and support of underground nets.

(4) Economic warfare.

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b. Committee Aspects

(1) Following its establishment, the task of the National Committee for Free Albania was to aid in choosing Albanians suitable for agents to be infiltrated into Albania; to provide personnel and assistance in carrying out the propaganda objectives of the project; and, in general, to furnish support in all phases of operations and cover to the entire project. To fulfill this task effectively, smooth functioning and cooperation within the Committee is essential, and ~~it is essential that the members of the Committee be well informed and have a common purpose.~~ <sup>EXPLAIN CONTROL OF COMMITTEE IN FMD.</sup>

~~are in this country and all with a common purpose.~~ <sup>MENTION SELECTION OF APPROXIMATELY 250 AGENTS TO GERMANY ETC. AND RECRUITING TRIP OF SELECTED MEMBERS.</sup>

(2) Consideration was given to inclusion of the BKI and/or a member of the Markagjoni family in the Committee. A definite decision was reached to exclude the BKI, but it would be useful if a member of the Markagjoni family (preferably ~~NAME~~) could be induced to join on a personal basis. (EXPLAIN OSO TIE-UP)

(3) The establishment of an office of the National Albanian Committee for Free Albania in New York under the auspices of the NCFE has been consummated; and arrangements for the publication by that office of a newspaper in the Albanian language is now in process of completion. (The Committee is aiming at the date of 1 September.) (EXPLAIN MEMBERSHIP OF N.Y. OFFICE, INCLUDING PROPAGANDA SECTION)

c. Propaganda Aspects

(1) In the field of propaganda, the Committee has organized a press and propaganda unit consisting of three Albanians and an American specialist. The unit will be physically located in Europe, and Mr. Zef Pali has been designated by the Executive Committee of the National Committee for Free Albania to be the director of the unit. The unit, in addition to other propaganda tasks, will prepare the texts of leaflets and cartoons for dissemination in Albania by the American and British elements of BGFIEND-VALUABLE.

(2) OPC arrangements for propaganda operations have made considerable progress. A joint BGFIEND-OKSTAIR propaganda center is being set up in Greece. ~~It is to be provided with mobile short wave radio sets and with one medium wave portable radio apparatus.~~ The chief of this propaganda center is already in Greece attending to its organization (EXPLAIN JOINT USE FIRST-STEP STAIR OR AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT, ETC)

(3) Exclusively for Albania, propaganda broadcasts will also be sent out from a medium wave radio transmitter located

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on a vessel cruising on the Ionian or the Adriatic Seas and supplied with propaganda material from the propaganda center in Greece. The vessel will be capable of operating for a period of two weeks before returning to its base for supplies. Its base will be located in Greece.

(4) This propaganda vessel is being acquired although a final bill of sale has not yet been signed. As soon as the vessel is taken over, it will be reconditioned and refitted. It will then be chartered to an OPC representative who will be conducting biological explorations for the Mediterranean Marine Biological Institute, a fictitious organization now in the process of being incorporated. The vessel will fly the Panamanian flag; and the master, who possesses a Panamanian license, is already under contract. He has been assigned the task of recruiting his crew out of eight persons who have been security cleared already.

*These have agreed to be recruited.*

(5) A propaganda directive has been worked out in cooperation with the British and has been disseminated.

(6) One leaflet-dropping operation was completed on 16 June 1950: One hundred thousand leaflets were dropped over Albania by the British. The leaflets were prepared by OPC in the United States. More ~~droppings~~ are being prepared.

d. Underground Activities

(1) A camp for the collection of Albanians suitable to be used as agents for infiltration into Albania has been established in Germany and is operating under the cover of a labor camp. It now contains approximately two hundred and fifty Albanians. A site for this school has now been found and negotiations are in progress for its rental for a period of one year. ~~Three~~ <sup>Three</sup> instructors for that school are already on the spot and ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> others have been recruited and will leave for Germany during the week of 28 August.

(2) It is contemplated that ~~five~~ <sup>five</sup>, four-man teams of agents will be dropped in Albania by airplane by 30 September. (Explain minimum objectives) For this purpose a C-47 has been ~~ordered~~ <sup>ordered</sup> by OPC ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> the U.S. ~~Army~~ <sup>Army</sup> for purchase. The aircraft will be operated by a foreign crew. OPC is now in the process of recruiting a Yugoslav crew, and ~~the chief pilot of this team is already under contract.~~ Until this permanent crew becomes available, the plane will be operated by a Polish crew, which has already been engaged and is scheduled to report to Germany on 25 August. ~~to pick up~~ <sup>to pick up</sup> the plane. It ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> been decided to have the plane flown to its base in Greece by an American crew, the Polish crew will be transported ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> Greece by other means.

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(3) Two C-47's have been assigned to OPC by the U.S. ~~Army~~ <sup>Air Force</sup> authorities in Germany to be used for ground-air liaison with OPC agents operating in Albania. The necessary commo equipment is now being installed in these planes by technicians dispatched to Germany by OPC for that purpose. The aircraft will operate from a base in Greece and will be flown by U.S. Army personnel.

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(4) Steps are being taken for the organization of a welfare ~~camp~~ <sup>center</sup> in Greece, primarily for exfiltrates from Albania. *Reasonable*

e. Economic Warfare

(1) Much thought has been given to the topic of economic warfare against Albania, but nothing concrete has been accomplished. In this connection, it appears that economic sabotage directed particularly from Trieste may be of the most effective means of attack. Further consideration is now being given to this matter. ✓

f. Miscellaneous

(1) Weapons and ammunition, parachutes, field equipment and clothing, training material -such as books, manuals, movies, etc., - rations, maps, broadcasting equipment for the vessel, commo equipment - motorola air equipment and 40 ground sets, with extra battery - vehicles etc., have been ordered and much of its has already been received and is being readied for shipment. ~~Weapons~~

(2) [ ] has approximately 15 US contract employees and by 1 September will have approximately 20.

(3) Approximate total expended or committed, \$130,000 - ]

*Files are lacking - records very poor -  
weapons of 1000 men - well on way.*