

S E C R E TE N C L O S U R E

2 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL DEANE:

SUBJECT: Detachment of Bulgaria from the Axis

Situation:

The success of the Sicilian campaign and pending political developments in Italy have great bearing on Bulgaria's position. The people are not pro-German. The Queen of Bulgaria is the daughter of the King of Italy. There is strong pro-American feeling in certain circles while the agrarian-communists are pro-Russian. It is possible that as a result of developments in Italy Germany will decide to maintain a defense line following the Valley of the Po, the Dalmatian coast, and the Transylvanian and Carpathian Mountains in which case Bulgaria will be left outside of the defense line. This possibility increases Bulgaria's uncertainty while display of air power like that shown in yesterday's bombing of the Ploesti oil fields is a further disturbing factor. The Army consists of some 700,000 well-equipped soldiers, who constitute a menace so long as the Axis connection is maintained but who would be of inestimable value if they could be used by the Allies.

Possible Action:

It is believed that steps can be taken to detach Bulgaria from the Axis either through influence on the King or failing that through action which the General Staff of the Army and the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church might be persuaded to take. The intervention of the General Staff or the Archbishop would probably involve the abdication of Boris. In any case the intervention of some person with very high connections in Bulgaria is prerequisite.

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The Agent:

For the past year OSS has been working with a man of Bulgarian origin who has intimate personal relations with court, military, and church personages of the greatest importance. He is well and favorably known to officers of the State Department and to Colonel Jadwin, until recently American Military Attache in Ankara. He was the principal private banker in Bulgaria and a man of great wealth. His wife is a personal friend of the Queen and he, himself, is intimately acquainted with the Chief of Staff, the Archbishop, Bulgarian diplomats, and other leading personalities. He is now a naturalized American citizen (his naturalization having been accomplished through the Army) and he is prepared to undertake to procure Bulgaria's withdrawal from the Axis. He believes his chances of success at this particular juncture are very good and his definition of success includes the disarming and internment of German troops now in Bulgaria, the destruction of German materiel in Bulgaria, and the seizure for Bulgarian and Allied use of Italian materiel.

Question to be Decided by the Military Authorities:

If, from a military standpoint, the detachment of Bulgaria from the Axis and her adherence to the Allied cause is deemed to be of immediate military importance and if there is no understanding between the United States and Russia which would prohibit the United States from attempting to accomplish this, should steps be taken at once to make use of the services of this uniquely qualified individual? If so, consideration should be given to the organization of a small mission built around this agent, such mission to include perhaps a War Department representative like Colonel Jadwin, a State Department officer like Mr. Cannon, and an OSS representative. The agent might advantageously be given appropriate Army rank for the purpose

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of his mission and his ostensible duty in the Middle East might be to advise upon banking and monetary questions affecting military establishments in that area. It is believed that should this plan or one like it be approved by the military authorities, arrangements should at once be made to get the agent into the field so that everything may be in readiness at the earliest possible date. Apart from the military significance of detaching Bulgaria from the Axis the psychological effect of a second Axis defection following closely after the Italian development would be very great.

Conclusion:

It is obvious that this undertaking involves questions of the highest national policy and that it cannot be proceeded with until such questions have been cleared.