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DD/P No. 3-4022

11 July 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/SE

SUBJECT: Continuing Yugoslav complaints concerning  
US protection of Andrew Artukovich.

1. This memorandum will serve to record the essentials of the complaint and request lodged with me on 3 July by Franc Primozic, the Yugoslav Minister, in the matter of the US residence of Andrew Artukovich, as well as to respond to the points made and questions raised in your brief informal memorandum of today's date. At the conclusion of my lengthy luncheon conversation with Primozic, he said that he had two points which he wished to raise with me and concerning which any advice or assistance which I could provide would be most welcome to him and to his Government.

2. The first of these points, having to do with Yugoslav sensitivity on the subject of official US findings as to her independence or lack of it from Soviet domination, is to be covered in my full memorandum of record covering the July 3 conversation with Primozic. The second point had to do with the status of Andrew Artukovich, and Primozic opened this subject by reminding me of a conversation which he had had some months ago with Mr. Robert P. Joyce of the Department of State about Artukovich and the extreme unhappiness of the Yugoslav Government (and people) at the prospect of our continuing to provide protection and asylum to "the murderer and war criminal, Artukovich". I acknowledged that I recalled the earlier conversation and agreed that Mr. Joyce had appeared to share the official Yugoslav view that Artukovich had indulged in inhuman cruelties as Ustashi Minister of the Interior during the war. Primozic then pointed out that as far as the Embassy could tell nothing was being done about this matter and Artukovich was being permitted to hide behind the skirts of American justice in his claim of the right to political asylum. He explained that this was a subject on which the Yugoslav Government and a vast majority of the Yugoslav people felt very strongly, and that unless and until the case of Artukovich is satisfactorily resolved, it will continue to be a major irritant in Yugoslav-American relations. Primozic went on to say that whereas the Yugoslav Government is most anxious to have its long-standing request for extradition honored by the United States, he had reason

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to believe that his Government might be satisfied if the United States Government could only see its way clear to deporting Artukovich. This would at least remove the principal irritant, and what might subsequently happen with regard to the status of Artukovich would be the responsibility of someone other than the United States. Finally, in this connection, Primozic declared that it seemed to him that there was a good and sufficient legal ground for deportation in that Artukovich had entered the United States illegally and under a false identity.

3. I replied that I was not personally familiar with the case of Artukovich and that matters of this kind were not within the jurisdiction of my organization. I said that, however, in view of Mr. Primozic's request and his representations to me concerning not only the crimes of Artukovich but the strength of Yugoslav feeling against him, I would take it upon myself to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate US authorities, indicating that the subject had been raised with me by Primozic. I said that, of course, I could not assure any results, and that I very much doubted that the extradition of Artukovich would be granted because of the policy of the United States Government to refuse the forcible repatriation of persons within our boundaries who claim and can make out a showing that they will be subjected to harsh treatment on account of their past political beliefs and activities.

4. On July 10 I brought this matter to the attention of Mr. Loftus Becker, the General Counsel of the State Department, describing the manner in which it had been raised with me by Primozic and stating that I was unfamiliar with the true facts in the case, except that I knew it was "an old chestnut" with the State Department. I said that I felt that it was probably worth being looked into because of its nuisance value and the possibility that the matter might have been allowed to fall between stools at some point. I suggested to Mr. Becker that if upon examination of this case it should appear that it was either infeasible or undesirable to deport Artukovich, then a careful up-to-date explanation of the reasons for our position might possibly be of some value and should be considered. Mr. Becker agreed to look into the matter and to call for a report on the status and background of this case.

cc: without atts - C/CI  
      attn [ ]

[ ]  
FRANK G. WISNER  
] Deputy Director (Plans)

#### Attachments:

RI file on Andrew Artukovich.

Informal memo of 7/11 to DD/P  
from C/SE, same subject.

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