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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung.

GOVERNMENT DETAINS SERBIAN METROPOLITAN;
 ELECT NEW HEAD OF YUGOSLAV CHURCH

ARREST YUGOSLAV CHURCH LEADER -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 1372, 29 Jun 50

It is reported from Belgrade as of 27 June that the arrest of the Serbian Orthodox Metropolitan, Josif, 73-year-old leader of the opposition against the government's candidate for the office of Patriarch, has been officially confirmed. Josif is charged with complicity in a monarchist plot against the regime. The Metropolitan, a man of great influence, allegedly is being dealt with very circumspectly. He has not been imprisoned but is being confined to his customary residence, a monastery near Rankovicevo. Apparently his opportunities for contact with the outside world are negligible.

Josif is head of the Holy Synod, the Supreme Serbian Orthodox Church authority. He has been attacked in the news organ of the National Association of Priests for having signed a petition against the Partisans during the occupation.

BISHOP VIKENTIJE WINS PATRIARCHATE -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 1406, 3 Jul 50

The much-disputed election of the new Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church took place in Belgrade on 1 July. Sixty-one of the 73 members of the election board were present. Bishop Vikentije, of Sletovo-Strumica, Macedonia, won the election by 33 votes. Although he was the candidate of the state-supported Association of Priests and of the National Committees on Religion, Patriarch Vikentije is considered a man of independent character and it is doubted that he will let himself be used as a mere figurehead.

Metropolitan Josif, the opposition leader in the patriarchal elections, is still imprisoned in a South Serbian monastery.

Reports of the arrest of General Stefanovic, Chief of the Belgrade Police in the old Royalist days, have not been denied. Doctor Kumanudis, former Foreign Minister, is also said to have been arrested.

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