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SCHOOLS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Comment: The following report is one of several taken from Informativni prirucnik o Jugoslaviji, a handbook published irregularly since late 1948 by the Yugoslav Directorate for Information.

SCHOOLS IN PREWAR YUGOSLAVIA

According to the Law on Elementary Schools of 1929, elementary education in prewar Yugoslavia was compulsory and free of charge. However, 44.6 percent of the population was illiterate. In former Vrbas Banovina, 72 percent of the population was illiterate. Illiteracy among women was 87 percent in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1931. The percentage of illiterates in Kosovo-Metohija was approximately 85 percent; while it was 67.5 percent in Macedonia.

Educational policy in prewar Yugoslavia was such that entire nationalities did not have a single school in their native language. Macedonia did not have a single Macedonian-language school. In addition, the dictatorship of 6 January 1929 started to close the schools in Macedonia. Eastern Macedonia, with a population of about 400,000, was left without a single Gymnasium which offered a complete course. There was not a single school with teaching conducted in Turkish or Albanian. It was mainly only the Germans and Hungarians who were allowed to have their national schools.

The Ministry of Education of prewar Yugoslavia spent 966,858,638 dinars for schools and science in 1939 - 1940, while postwar Yugoslavia appropriated 2,031,472,861 dinars for 1946.

In 1937 - 1938, there was one school per 29.75 square kilometers. Schools were very unevenly distributed, some areas being without a single Gymnasium, while others had too many. The Law of 1932 introduced tuition for the university Belgrade?. Since the fee was high, many poor students were not able to begin their studies, while others had to discontinue studies they had begun.

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Data of the Central Press Bureau in the Council of Ministers of prewar Yugoslavia shows that there were many cases in which schools did not get even 1 percent of the money appropriated for them.

RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS

In Yugoslavia in 1938 - 1939, there were 10,903 elementary, secondary, and advanced schools with an attendance of 1,739,907. The Germans and Italians destroyed or damaged a large number of schools during the war. In the liberated part of Croatia in 1943, according to incomplete data, there were 221 elementary schools with 10,580 pupils.

In 1946 - 1947, there were 12,447 elementary, secondary, and advanced schools with an attendance of 1,858,112; in 1947 - 1948 there were 14,403 schools with an attendance of 2,109,892.

The Ministry of Education of Serbia appropriated 59,769,000 dinars in July 1946 for the renovation and construction of school buildings. The budget of the Ministry of Education of Serbia for 1947 was 717,918,590 dinars, almost as much as the budget of the federal Ministry of Education for all of Yugoslavia in 1936 - 1937.

From the liberation to 1947 Serbia spent 205,979,112 dinars on schools. Voluntary contributions from the people in cash, materials, and manpower amounted to an additional 127,701,313 dinars. During this period 428 elementary schools, 21 pre-Gymnasium schools, six Gymnasiums, and one teachers' school with a total of 1,075 school rooms to accommodate 53,750 students were constructed. The construction of 301 elementary schools, 76 lower Gymnasiums, eight higher Gymnasiums, and two pedagogic schools was planned for 1948.

The other republics in Yugoslavia also made great efforts to restore and construct schools. In 1945, the Ministry of Education of Croatia, in addition to a regular allotment for school maintenance of 455,323,600 dinars, approved an additional allotment of 25 million dinars for the repair of damaged elementary school buildings.

In 1936 - 1937, in Macedonia there were 846 elementary schools attended by 95,335 pupils. During 1944 - 1945, there were 889 elementary schools attended by 92,231 pupils; in 1945 - 1946, there were 1,102 elementary schools with 113,271 pupils, or 30 percent more than there were before the war. Twenty-five percent of Macedonia's entire budget for 1946 was allotted for education, while an additional 82,000,000 dinars were allotted from the Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Country. In 1946, 281 school buildings were constructed with 94,794,000 dinars being allotted for this purpose and with the people contributing voluntary labor.

In 1947, in Montenegro there were 147 elementary school buildings with 270 school rooms were renovated, producing 17,947 square meters of space. The construction of new schools produced an additional 30 school rooms with 10,946 square meters of space.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The number of elementary schools and pupils attending them has increased since the liberation as follows:

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| | <u>1944 - 1945</u> | <u>1945 - 1946</u> | <u>1946 - 1947</u> | <u>1947 - 1948</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Serbia | 3,552 | 3,724 | 4,086 | 4,343 |
| Croatia | 2,849 | 3,143 | 3,131 | 3,379 |
| Slovenia | 714 | 880 | 861 | 1,189 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 646 | 930 | 930 | 1,320 |
| Macedonia | 889 | 1,102 | 1,143 | 1,208 |
| Montenegro | 572 | 583 | 596 | 613 |
| Total | 9,222 | 10,362 | 10,747 | 12,052 |

There were 2,754 higher elementary schools in Yugoslavia in 1947 - 1948.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Law on National Schools of 1929 stipulated that compulsory elementary schooling was to last 8 years. According to this law an elementary school was an 8-year school, and was divided into a lower and a higher school. But nothing was done to put this law into effect. From 1929 to 1941 not a single 8-year school was opened, nor was any teaching plan or program drawn up for such a school.

On 26 October 1945, the Presidency of the Provisional People's Assembly of Yugoslavia enacted the Law on Compulsory 7-Year Education. The law provides for compulsory education to begin at the age of 7 and continue until 15, and is being put into effect gradually. The plan calls for 60 percent of the children who have completed 4 years of elementary school to be enrolled in 7-year schools in 1950 - 1951. There were 306 7-year schools in 1947 - 1948, distributed as follows: 149 in Croatia, 71 in Macedonia, 55 in Slovenia, and 31 in Montenegro. There were 259 pre-Gymnasiums in Serbia, the teaching plans and programs of which are almost identical with those in the 7-year schools.

There were 180 lower Gymnasiums in 1947 - 1948 as follows: 73 in Serbia, 11 in Croatia, 43 in Slovenia, 28 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 17 in Macedonia, and 8 in Montenegro.

There were 197 higher Gymnasiums in 1947 - 1948 as follows: 90 in Serbia, 48 in Croatia, 24 in Slovenia, 17 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 12 in Macedonia, and 6 in Montenegro.

No of Secondary Schools (General Education) and Pupils
(including 7-year schools, pre-Gymnasiums, and Gymnasiums)

| | <u>1940 - 1941</u> | | <u>1945 - 1946</u> | | <u>1946 - 1947</u> | | <u>1947 - 1948</u> | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Schools*</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> |
| Serbia | | | 149 | | 343 | | 422 | |
| Croatia | | | 112 | | 154 | | 208 | |
| Slovenia | | | 65 | | 62 | | 122 | |

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| | <u>1940 - 1941</u> | | <u>1945 - 1946</u> | | <u>1946 - 1947</u> | | <u>1947 - 1948</u> | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Schools*</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Students</u> |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | | | 40 | | 42 | | 45 | |
| Macedonia | | | 24 | | 27 | | 100 | |
| Montenegro | | | 13 | | 34 | | 45 | |
| Total | 471 | 194,292 | 403 | 229,647 | 662 | 273,534 | 942 | 310,185 |

*Total only given for 1940 - 1941.

TEACHERS' SCHOOLS

In 1940 - 1941, there were 37 teachers' schools attended by 7,486 students. Because of the great demand for teaching personnel new schools for teachers were opened immediately after the liberation.

In 1945 - 1946, there were 40 teachers' schools with 9,486 students, in 1946 - 1947, there were 44 teachers' schools with 10,022 students, in 1947 - 1948, there were 53 teachers' schools with 15,145 students, and the plan calls for 54 teachers' schools to be in operation by 1951.

The teachers' schools were distributed as follows:

| | <u>1945 - 1946</u> | <u>1946 - 1947</u> | <u>1947 - 1948</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Serbia | 15 | 16 | 22 |
| Croatia | 14 | 16 | 17 |
| Slovenia | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| Macedonia | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Montenegro | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 40 | 44 | 53 |

TECHNICAL / VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

In 1938 - 1939, there were 852 lower technical and secondary technical schools in Yugoslavia. At the beginning of 1946 - 1947, there were 894 such schools (including schools for trainees in the economy) distributed as follows: 109 agricultural schools with 4,121 students, 11 forestry schools with 496 students, 22 mining schools with 1,322 students, 627 industrial and handicraft schools with 60,445 students, 24 maritime and transportation schools with 4,325 students, 78 commercial schools with 11,125 students, and 23 schools for the public health service with 1,084 students.

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In 1947 - 1948, there were 1,139 lower technical and secondary technical schools (including schools for trainees in the economy) with 104,725 students. The Five-Year Plan calls for the number of students in the secondary technical schools to be tripled.

SECONDARY ART SCHOOLS

There were 21 secondary art schools with 3,173 students in 1938 - 1939. The first year after the liberation, the number had increased to 60 with 8,601 students; by 1947 - 1948 there were 80 secondary art schools with 12,644 students.

The following secondary art schools were in session in 1947 - 1948: plastic arts schools with 472 students, 13 applied arts schools with 662 students, 55 music schools with 11,242 students, 5 schools of acting with 170 students, and one ballet school with 98 students.

SCHOOLS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION OF BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS

In 1947, schools for the general education of blue-collar workers were established to provide blue-collar workers, primarily shock workers, with a general education. These schools provide a 2-year course and are established in large places, primarily industrial centers. Shock workers, innovators, and inventors are given priority to enter these schools. The schools have a lower and higher course. The lower course is attended by blue-collar workers with an elementary education, and the higher course by blue-collar workers with at least 2 years of secondary school. Students who successfully complete the higher course may continue their specialized education in the corresponding department of a university. In 1947 - 1948, there were 88 such schools with 3,768 students.

SCHOOLS FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

Under Article 13 of the federal Constitution all national minorities have the right to develop their own culture and use their own language.

In 1946 - 1947 schools for national minorities were as follows:

Albanian Language

There were 467 elementary schools with 57,578 pupils, 15 secondary schools with 1,683 students, and one teachers' school with 142 students.

Hungarian Language

There were 208 elementary schools with 34,019 pupils, 29 secondary schools with 8,777 students, and two teachers' schools, compared with 186 Hungarian-language schools before the war.

Bulgarian Language

There were 95 elementary schools with 5,268 pupils, 21 secondary schools with 2,802 students, and one teachers' school.

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Czechoslovak Language

There were 53 elementary schools with 7,195 pupils, six secondary schools with 1,285 students, and one teachers' school, compared with 43 Czechoslovak-language schools before the war.

Italian Language

There were 56 elementary schools with 4,037 pupils, 14 secondary schools with 903 students, and one teachers' school, compared with five Italian-language schools before the war.

Rumanian Language

There were 37 elementary schools with 3,951 pupils, five secondary schools with 629 students, and one teachers' school with 70 students, compared with 34 Rumanian-language schools before the war.

Turkish Language

There were 70 elementary schools with 7,908 pupils and one secondary school with 66 students.

Russian Language

There were eight elementary schools with 1,482 pupils and two secondary schools with 334 students, compared with three Russian-language schools before the war.

UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER SCHOOLS OF HIGHER LEARNING

In 1938 - 1939, there were 21 faculties and eight other schools of higher learning in Yugoslavia. The faculties consisted of four law, four philosophy, three medical, three technical, two agricultural and forestry, three theological, and two veterinary. Other schools of higher learning included two schools of economics and commerce, two pedagogical schools, two music academies, and two plastic arts academies. A total of 16,261 were enrolled in the faculties and 1,473 in the other schools.

In 1945 - 1946, there were 36 faculties and other schools of higher learning with 25,761 students; in 1946 - 1947, there were 40 with 39,239 students; and in 1947 - 1948, there were 49 with 46,423 students. In 1947 - 1948, of the 32 faculties, five were medical with 7,535 students, four agricultural and forestry with 3,923 students, four philosophy with 4,286 students, four law with 4,581 students, three technical with 10,268 students, three economics with 7,333 students, three theological with 440 students, three natural science and mathematics with 1,976 students, two pharmacy with 1,314 students, and two veterinary with 1,969 students. Of the 17 other schools of higher learning, eight were pedagogical schools with 1,648 students, three plastic arts academies with 352 students, three music academies with 383 students, one state institute for physical culture with 173 students, one agricultural school for mountain farming with 178 students, and one actor's academy with 64 students.

A total of 43,625 students were enrolled in the faculties, and 2,798 in the other schools of higher learning.

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Bosnia-Herzegovina did not have a single faculty or other school of higher education before the war. Shortly before Germany attacked Yugoslavia an agriculture and forestry faculty was opened but it operated only a few months. Today, Bosnia-Herzegovina has medical and law faculties, a school for mountain farming, and a pedagogical school.

Macedonia only had a philosophy faculty before the war. It now has philosophy, medical, and agriculture and forestry faculties.

Montenegro did not have a single school for higher education before the war. It now has a pedagogical school.

TEACHING PERSONNEL

In 1938 - 1939, there were 32,144 teachers in Yugoslav elementary schools. Many teachers were killed during the National Liberation War, 2,787 teachers were killed in Croatia alone. Even during the National Liberation struggle the people's authority tried to increase the number of teachers. By the time of the liberation, 1,213 new teachers had been qualified in Croatia. In 1944 - 1945, there were a total of 450 teachers in Macedonia, which was increased to 1,456 in 1945 - 1946; 1,960 in 1946 - 1947, and 2,298 in 1947 - 1948. In 1947 - 1948, 23,889 teachers were employed in Yugoslavia.

The Five-Year Plan calls for 16,200 new teachers to be trained for Yugoslav schools. In 1940 - 1941, there were 9,396 teachers in secondary schools for general education (including teachers in teachers' schools) and 8,605 in 1947 - 1948. Teachers for schools of general education, 7-year schools, pre-Gymnasiums, and lower Gymnasiums are trained in pedagogical schools. Teachers for higher Gymnasiums are trained in philosophy and natural science and mathematics faculties. About 5,000 professors are to be graduated from these faculties by 1951.

THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND THE SCHOOLS

A total of 5,900,000,000 dinars is assigned by the Five-Year Plan for investment in education. The plan provides for the construction of one million square meters of school area, providing accommodations for an additional 320,000 students.

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