

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

25X1

SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY	Yugoslavia	REPORT	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Yugoslav Relations with the Eastern Bloc	DATE DISTR.	16 Dec. 1954
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

[REDACTED]

1. At recent press conference held at the Foreign Ministry in Belgrade for Yugoslav and foreign journalists, Branko Draskovic, spokesman for the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, stated that it appeared to him natural that an exchange of views on general political problems between Yugoslavia and Eastern Bloc countries should accompany the progressive normalization of diplomatic relations between them. When [REDACTED] asked if Yugoslavia might go back into the orbit of Cominform countries, the Yugoslavs openly showed their amusement and the Yugoslav speaker declared categorically that a return of Yugoslavia into the Eastern Bloc was out of the question. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

2. [REDACTED] There can be no doubt that Yugoslavia does not intend to return to the camp of orthodox communism or to renew her allegiance to the USSR. On the other hand, it is generally believed in Belgrade that the danger threatening from the East has decreased and that an aggression need not be feared for the time being. It is recognized that the political course steered by Moscow is more pliant and responsive toward the West. The presence of Soviet divisions in Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania is not considered really dangerous. Belgrade welcomes the Western intention of increasing its trade relations with Eastern Bloc countries. The Yugoslav government will probably not display any initiative of its own in increasing its contacts with the Eastern Camp, but it will be open to all proposals made in this respect by the USSR and her Satellites. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

Similarly, it appears probable that Tito will try to profit by normal relations between Yugoslavia and the Eastern Bloc without giving up the advantages offered to his country by the West. Yugoslav observers have also

25X1

SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

 25X1

noticed that Tito is no longer vilified in the Eastern press as a "lackey of the imperialist West" or as "a traitor of the Communist cause". It appears that the East has put up with Tito's defection and is preparing a way for a positive cooperation between Yugoslavia and the Eastern Bloc.

3. On 10 October 1954, it was learned in Belgrade that the Soviet Ambassador, Vasily Valkov, had visited Tito in order to discuss the question of normal trade relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia for the coming year. It is believed in Belgrade political circles that the Soviets offered Yugoslavia Soviet wheat shipments in 1955. By offering a few thousand tons of wheat, Moscow could demonstrate to the Yugoslavs that they do no longer depend on American wheat. As a matter of fact, there are communists in Yugoslavia who prefer bread from communist wheat to bread made of capitalist wheat.

 25X1

SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY