

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. During the period March 1949 - July 1954, the problem of Cominformism was current at the Armed Forces Engineer Center, Karlovac, Croatia. Inasmuch as the championing of the Cominform was considered a treasonable activity, the Cominformists conducted their activities in a clandestine manner. Nevertheless, it was known that Cominformists existed not only among the members of the permanent staff of the Center, but also among the student-officers. The proportion of Cominformists was greater among the higher ranking officers than among officers of lower rank. 25X1
2. The Center's KOS (Kontra Obavestajna Sluzba, Counter Espionage Service) unit, commanded by Major Ljubomir Kodric, was especially active in combating Cominformism. On one occasion Kodric stated, in the course of a Party meeting which took place at the Center, that anyone working against the best interests of the regime, be he sympathetic to the West or the East, would be regarded as a Cominformist and treated accordingly. Often the personal feuds among officers resulted in the arrest of one of them under charges of Cominformism.
3. Because of these conditions, the Cominformists were especially circumspect in their attempts to recruit new followers. One of their methods of approaching someone who, in their opinion, might be favorable to the Cominform was to praise Tito and the regime and see what the reaction would be. If the person who was so approached reacted by criticizing the regime and Tito, and did this a number of times, the Cominformists would eventually disclose their true feelings. Yet this too was dangerous as KOS personnel sought to expose the Cominformists by pretending to be anti-regime, thus provoking the Cominformists into disclosing their real beliefs.
4. While it was generally believed at the Center that a Cominformist paper 25X1

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was being printed in Yugoslavia, copies of such a paper never appeared at the Center. Occasionally, however, stray copies of a Cominformist paper printed in one of the Satellite countries found their way into the Center. In addition, several arrests took place at the Center in connection with a Cominformist paper which allegedly was being printed in Yugoslavia.

5. During the period 1950 to 1953, about 30 officers of the permanent staff and an unknown number of student-officers were arrested by KOS and charged with being Cominformists.¹ Some of those arrested were sent to the Goli Otok Concentration Camp, while the others ended up in prison in Zagreb. The arrests ceased completely at the end of 1953. The following are some of the officers arrested during this period on charges of being Cominformists:
 - a. Lt. Col. Zdravko Pantovic, arrested in 1952, died in prison;
 - b. Lt. Col. Kosta Popovic, arrested in 1952;
 - c. Lt. Col. Ivan Normali, arrested in 1953;
 - d. Lt. Col. Jovanovic, arrested in 1952;
 - e. Major Masan Brajovic, arrested in 1953, died in prison;
 - f. Major Jozo Kovacevic, arrested in 1952;
 - g. Major Aleksandar Milivojevic, arrested in either 1952 or 1953;
 - h. Captain 1st Class Stanko Smoje, arrested in 1953;
 - i. Captain 1st Class Milun Savic, arrested in 1952;
 - j. Lieutenant Ivosevic, arrested in 1952; and
 - k. Captain 1st Class Jozo Brkic.

All of the above listed, except Brkic, were members of the Center's permanent staff. Brkic was a student-officer at the Center at the time of his arrest.

1. Comment: Not all of the officers who were arrested were Cominformists, since KOS, in an effort to get rid of someone for one reason or other, resorted to the expedient of labeling such a person a Cominformist.

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