

Over file

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

25X1A

FID 173

Document No. 6
NO CHANGE in Class.
CLASSIFIED
Class. changed by: [unclear]
Auth: [unclear]
Date: 4/7/78

~~SECRET~~
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE: 25X1X

INFO. [redacted]

SUBJECT Patriarch Gavriilo's Return to Belgrade

DIST. 7 March 1947

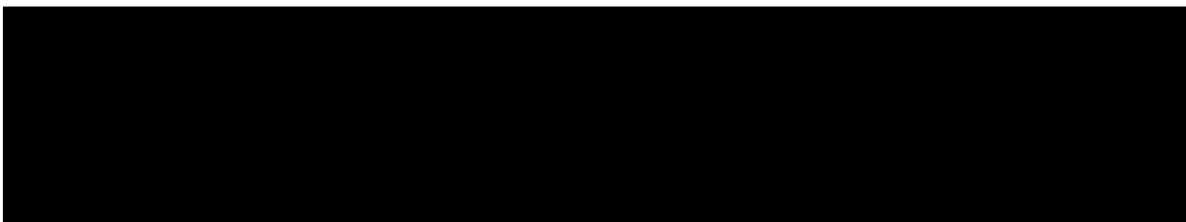
25X1A

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [redacted]

25X1X



1. Patriarch Gavriilo's return to Belgrade was prompted by his fear of the possibility that the Holy Synod would elect a new Patriarch favorable to the Tito Regime. Upon his arrival in Belgrade, without fanfare, he immediately went to his residence where Metropolitan Josip invested him with powers. Among the first to call on the Patriarch was Vlada Zeceovich, former Orthodox priest and now Minister in the Federated Government of Serbia, with a delegation of Orthodox priests who joined the Tito Regime. During the call Metropolitan Josip briefed them on the present status of the Orthodox Church.
2. Among others who called on the Patriarch was a delegation from the Macedonian Orthodox Church requesting autonomy for their Church. In refusing the delegation's request, Gavriilo stated that so far as he is concerned there is no such thing as a Macedonian people; therefore, there can be no autonomous Macedonian Church.

25X1X

Comment: In this connection, it should be noted that Metropolitan Josip was at one time Metropolitan of Skoplje (Macedonia) and was expelled by the Bulgarians during their occupation of Macedonia in 1941. He was not permitted by the Tito Regime to return to his former post.

3. Another delegation which called on the Patriarch comprised a group of pro-Tito Orthodox priests from Montenegro who were accused by Gavriilo, himself a Montenegrin, of abandoning the Church for politics. Gavriilo also received Milovan Djilas, Minister in the Central Government, another Montenegrin.
4. It is reported that Gavriilo paid a call on Tito only after the insistence of a Soviet Bishop. He was accompanied by Metropolitan Josip and Bishop Dr. Nektarije Krulj, both strong nationalists. Tito received the Patriarch coolly. They discussed drawing up of a law for the Church, but without reaching any final decision.
3. In connection with the recent Pan-Slav Congress which took place on 8 December 1946 in Belgrade, the Patriarch was invited to speak, but his speech is reported to have been written by the Soviet Military Attache in Belgrade, General Gudurov. Although Gavriilo...

25X1A

25X1A

~~SECRET~~

ADSO	X	A DEP.	X	FET	SPDF	VTO	[redacted]	QTR
DADSO		FKK	X	FVJ	SPDF	WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE		Ev.
EXEC.		FBL		FEN	SPDT	CFCB		
CONTROL		FDM		FEZ	EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT.			
PLANS	Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000400170007-6							

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

25X1A

-2-

was told that he would be the first speaker, he was among the last to be given the floor- a situation which he sorely resented.

6. The first order of business that the Patriarch will face when he calls a meeting of the Holy Synod, of which he is President, will be to elect new bishops for the eleven vacant dioceses of the twenty-seven in Yugoslavia. There are at present two bishops known to be in favor of the Tito Regime: Rajich, former professor of catechism, a great opportunist, and Vikeatije, who is very keen on being elected Patriarch.

25X1A

Comment: The Patriarchate in Yugoslavia is divided into twenty-seven dioceses, with the Patriarch, six archbishops and twenty bishops at their head.