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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Italy/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 8 December 1948

SUBJECT Current Negotiations for a Concordat between the Vatican and Yugoslavia

NO. OF PAGES 2

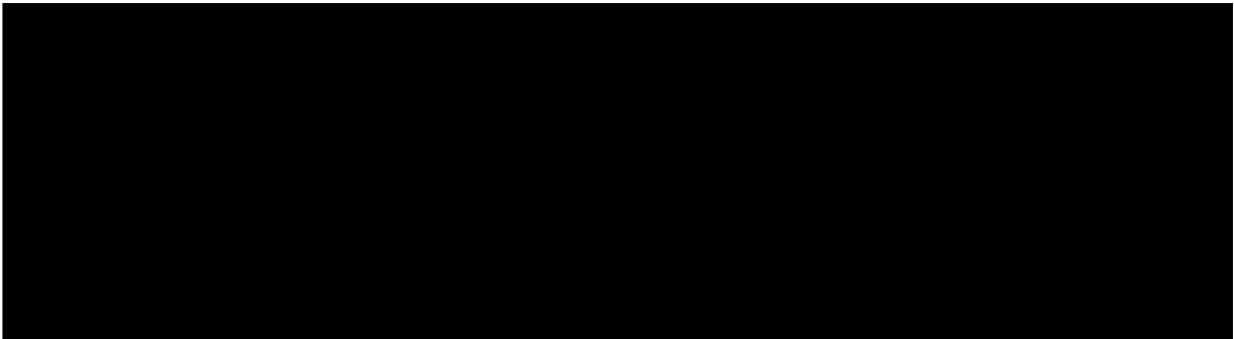
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. Pope Pius XII personally is directing negotiations currently taking place for a concordat between the Vatican and Yugoslavia. The representative of the Yugoslav Government engaged in the negotiations is assisted by a religious adviser. Initial contact was established on the Vatican's initiative, the end of October, 1948, through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Yugoslav Legation, in Rome.
2. As preliminary, the Vatican insisted on some guarantee of good faith on the part of the Yugoslav Government. As a result, the latter eventually agreed to release all Yugoslav churchmen still in prison on political charges and to offer compensation for damages. The nature of the compensation was left unspecified, but it was agreed that it might take the form of restoration of church property or the extension of certain privileges, before the agreement was announced officially.
3. The Vatican is raising the following points for negotiation:
  - a. Conclusion of a new concordat to replace the one abrogated by the Yugoslavs;
  - b. Repeal by the Yugoslavs of all anti-religious laws, particularly those against the Roman Catholic church, in Yugoslavia;
  - c. Equality of the Roman Catholic church, in Yugoslavia, with all other churches and complete freedom of catholics to perform religious duties; and
  - d. Recognition by Yugoslavia of the danger of subordinating the Serbian and other orthodox sects, in Yugoslavia, to the Russian grand synod.

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4. The Yugoslav Government has made the following demands:
  - a. The Vatican shall expressly forbid all political activity on the part of the Roman Catholic church, in Yugoslavia;
  - b. The Roman Catholic church shall limit its propaganda to those areas in which the catholics are in the majority; and
  - c. If the Yugoslav Government agrees to adopt a more favorable attitude toward religion, the Vatican shall refrain from any public reaction likely to undermine the Government's authority.
  
5. The Vatican, it is reported, anticipates the greatest contention to be the question of the return of church property.

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