

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 25 SEP 50

SUBJECT Appointment of Former Royal Yugoslav Army Officers to Positions of Command in the Yugoslav Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Recently in Yugoslavia great importance has been given to air raid precautions and to attempts to form new air defense units. In this, the government has been faced with the problem of finding officers acceptable to the regime. The government must either call former Royal Yugoslav officers into service or assign to important posts officers who have passed through the ranks of the Partisans and who have for the most part been trained in the Soviet Union. Since the government believes that officers who were Partisans are in sympathy with the Cominform, and believes the former Royal Yugoslav officers to be more reliable, they have assigned the latter to positions of command.
2. At present the following men, former officers of the Royal Yugoslav Army, hold important posts in the Yugoslav Army:
 - a. Brigadier General Zarko Vidovic is Commander in Chief of Air Defense in the Yugoslav Army. In 1946 he was a Captain; in 1948 he became a lieutenant colonel and in 1950 he was advanced to the rank of Brigadier General.
 - b. Colonel Sridjan has been appointed Inspector General of anti-aircraft units. He was Commander of Air Defense in Belgrade during World War II.
 - c. Lt. Colonel Boskovic has been appointed Commander of Air Defense in Belgrade.
 - d. Lieutenants Mustafic and Lakic and Major Hodzic are holding positions of authority in the Anti-Aircraft Air Defense units in Zagreb, Nis and Novi Sad, respectively.
 - e. Lieutenants Sivic, Grujc and Andrejic are employed as teachers at the Protiv Avijonska Odbrana (PAO) (Anti-Aircraft Defense School). They were first lieutenants in 1941; they were promoted from the rank of captain to that of lieutenant colonel in three years.
3. While the Tito regime favors and places in high posts anti-Cominformists and efficient former Royal Yugoslav officers, it is also pitilessly imprisoning those who oppose the regime and those who are under suspicion. In Belgrade three hundred persons who were sponsored by the Soviets and who demonstrated against the regime were imprisoned. Major Obrat Djokovic, who took part in

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partisan activities during World War II and was decorated seven times for bravery, was among those imprisoned. Leposava Knezevic (Lepa), who was known as a Communist before the war and was imprisoned for two years during the war for being a Communist, was also imprisoned for making statements against the Tito regime. She is being kept in solitary confinement since she is considered to be very dangerous. The others who were imprisoned consist of State officials and officials of other unspecified groups.

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