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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Views of an Official in the Yugoslav  
Ministry of Foreign Trade on Economic  
Conditions

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

25X1A

DATE OF  
INFO.



- 25X1X
- a. The Five Year Plan is a complete failure and the economic situation of Yugoslavia can only be saved by American aid. A large part of the housing construction in Yugoslavia has stopped after the framework has gone up because of the lack of copper, steel, or lead for pipes and installations. For seven months the Yugoslavs have been in constant contact with Western Germany, France, and Italy in order to purchase copper, but to date the Yugoslavs have not been able to purchase any because of no foreign currency and other difficulties placed before Yugoslavia by the aforementioned countries. Fifteen days ago it was decided to send 60,000 construction workers to their home cities because there was no work for them. These workers were employed in Belgrade, Zagreb, Split, et cetera; that is where construction was at its height.
  - b. Efforts of the Yugoslavs to bring German technicians and engineers to Yugoslavia have not been successful because the Germans will not accept the conditions of the Yugoslavs which for an engineer include 30,000 dinars a month, a new house, and special rations. A large number of Germans who came to Yugoslavia two years ago have gone to work in the United States when their contracts expired.
  - c. The Yugoslavs this year sent almost the entire crop of grapes, pears, and peaches to Germany, as well as pork fats and wines. In return, the Germans sent 400 Opel and Kapitan automobiles and an unspecified number of machine tools. Yugoslavia has also purchased 40 million francs worth of electrical material from a French firm whose manager is one, Marcel Lévêque, but to date the Yugoslavs have been unable to import this material because of a lack of francs.

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