

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina/Yugoslavia  
SUBJECT Current Activities of Ante Pavelic

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1. For the last several months Ante Pavelic, who was president of the Nazi-sponsored Croat Independent Republic (1941-1944), has been attempting to organize his military forces. He has issued orders to his immediate assistants to prepare lists of all former Croatian military personnel according to their branch of service in the armed forces. Pavelic is preparing these lists because he believes that war between the Western powers and the Soviet Union is inevitable and will break out in the immediate future. In this war the Western nations, led by the United States, will need the manpower of all anti-Communist forces, particularly of those who have had military training. Pavelic feels that only with the defeat of Communism can the independence of Croatia be reestablished.
2. Since during the first stages of the Korean conflict the Argentine public was opposed to the sending of Argentine forces outside the country, the Argentine Government has reportedly been studying the possibility of creating an Anti-Communist Legion which could be dispatched to Europe. The Legion would be composed principally of recent political exiles of European origin; one of the European national groups which have been considered is Pavelic's Ustasha group. Pavelic sees in the plan a grand opportunity for coming again into the public eye as one of the "allies" in any anti-Communist struggle.
3. The lists prepared by Pavelic are restricted generally to Argentina, because, with the exception of Uruguay and Venezuela, Croat organizations in other countries are not wholly under Pavelic's control. Although he has instructed that only military personnel be included in his lists, Pavelic reportedly will accept any Croat willing to serve under him, irrespective of the amount of previous military training.
4. Although Pavelic's military "experts" boast of their military prowess, it is a fact that not one experienced Ustasha career officer has accepted a position on Pavelic's general staff. Former Ustasha privates and non-commissioned officers, on the other hand, have greeted Pavelic's move with favor. The reason why Ustasha officer and enlisted personnel have reacted so differently to Pavelic's order is as follows: the rank and file of the Ustashi consider

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Pavelic to be the greatest living Croat, who has dedicated his life to obtain the independence of Croatia. They believe that only under his leadership will the Croats be delivered from Serbian domination. Among the Ustashi intelligentsia, however, the opinion prevails that Pavelic is finished as a political leader. To prove their contention that he is incapable of being a national leader they cite the tragedy which occurred at Bleiberg, Austria, at the end of World War II. About 100 Ustashi, being sent clandestinely into Croatia to organize guerrilla movements, fell into a trap and were massacred by Titoist forces. Although Pavelic tried to place the blame on Dr. (fnu) Susic, Secretary General of the Ustasha organization, and Dr. (fnu) Pirkevack, former Minister of Interior, both men stated that they were carrying out Pavelic's orders.

5. Pavelic's general staff is composed of the following persons:

For America:

Colonel Ivan Stir, Chief of the General Staff  
Jose Susic, Assistant  
Lieutenant Colonel (fnu) Biosic, Assistant  
Major Blas Jurkovic, Assistant

For Europe:

General Maks Luburic, Chief of the General Staff  
Marijan Pusic, Assistant

6. The following is biographical information on these individuals:

Ivan Stir

A lumber dealer by trade. During World War II he enlisted in the Ustasha militia and was given a colonel's commission although he had no previous military training. He is described as pro-Nazi, unintelligent, and uncultured.\*

Jose Susic

Uses the false name Jose Vucovac. Prior to the recent war he was an employee of the Yugoslav state monopoly; during the war he was a provincial official. He has had no military instruction; is of doubtful character, and has been suspected of swindling.

(fnu) Biosic

He was a lieutenant colonel in the Ustasha militia although he had had no previous military training.

Blas Jurkovic

Uses the false name Jose Razlic. Before the war he was a primary school teacher. During the war he received the rank of major for his services at the front.

Maks Luburic

Born in Herzegovina about 1910. He uses the false name (fnu) Drinjanin. Under Pavelic's government he was commandant of the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia. He is a dangerous fanatic who personally executed many prisoners at Jasenovac.\*\*

Marijan Pusic

Very advanced in age. He was an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army during World War I.

7. Pavelic is in close contact with Vittorio Mussolini and Carlo Scorza, Italian Fascists living in Argentina.\*\*\* Pavelic also maintains relations with former Nazis now living in Argentina, and with Argentine military personnel of pro-Nazi sympathies. Pavelic is also an intimate friend of General Higinio Morinigo, former president of Paraguay who now lives in exile in Argentina.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Stir is identical with the Colonel Ivo Stir whose arrival in Argentina from Spain early in 1948 was reported in [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Comment. Because of Luburic's bloody record, Pavelic made a poor choice in assigning him to the Ustasha command.

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[REDACTED] in October 1949 that after World War II Luburic stayed in Croatia, where he carried on guerrilla warfare against Tito. According to source, persons who know Luburic consider him dangerous. Luburic came to Argentina late in 1947, and was reported entering again in October 1949. In July 1950 he was seen in Rome. At that time the rumor was circulating among Croatian circles that his mission was to assassinate anti-Pavelic elements there.

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[REDACTED] for previous information on Mussolini and Scorza.

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