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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Yugoslavia's differences with the Soviet Union are a profound reality. Yugoslavia cannot and will not return to the fold of the Soviet Union. Even though the Cominform break was responsible for paralyzing a major part of Yugoslav industry, the great majority of the people are happy that it occurred. It becomes clearer each day to the people that the "wind which blows across the country comes from the West." The economic situation in Slovenia has improved progressively since 1948 despite the failure of the Five Year Plan, but it still is generally bad.
2. Political trials are becoming more and more of a rarity in Slovenia. On the other hand trials involving thefts, especially in cooperatives, and usually implicating the management, are frequent. The temptation to thievery can be attributed to the low salaries which makes it almost impossible for employees to live without an additional source of income.
3. Yugoslav election results as published in the Yugoslav press are usually correct. If the anti-regime "black box" receives an insignificant percentage of the votes cast in localities which are almost totally opposed to the Tito regime, it is due to the effect of widespread propaganda just prior to the elections involving a timely issue of grave concern to the people. For example, during the recent elections in Slovenia, Liberation Front (OF) propagandists warned the people that whosoever cast a vote in the "black box" would in fact be voting for the Soviets and would prefer to have the Cominformists in power. This simple device was largely responsible in inducing the people to refrain from casting votes in the "black box", much to the surprise of everyone.

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4. At least 90 or 95 percent of the Yugoslav people are members of the Liberation Front (OF), but the majority of them are opposed to the regime. Most of them are dissatisfied with the present regime and would be happy if the country could be occupied by forces of the United States. In case of war, the people will most certainly fight against the USSR and, although most of them are against the Tito regime, they prefer him to the Soviet Union and Stalin. A feeling of friendship towards the United States is due more than anything to the presence of relatives or friends in that country and the letters and packages which they mail to Yugoslavia; the packages are considered better proof of the high standard of living in the United States than all words to the contrary.
5. The fear of the people, and their subservience to the Tito regime and its security organs, has almost disappeared. The peasants, in particular, no longer have any fear or respect for the authorities. When the taxes fall due, the people no longer hesitate publicly to denounce and berate Tito. Frequently one hears, "Tito je koloradski hrosc" (Tito is a Colorado beetle).
6. During a recent Liberation Front celebration near Ptuj-Maribor, a portrait of Tito was placed on a farmhouse. A worker from Velika Nedelja shouted as he passed on a bicycle, "Take that devil down!" The people who heard this remark laughed but a few children present denounced the individual to the Militia which placed him under arrest for two months. As punishment, he was put to work in the Militia barracks, slept in prison at night and was paid a token salary during his incarceration.
7. Recently the Archbishop of Maribor visited the Ptuj area to bestow confirmation on the local children. The people went to greet him on horseback and dressed in their native costumes as was the custom at one time. At the head of the procession, a Yugoslav flag without the red star was carried. Once the children had been confirmed the Militia intervened and accused the Archbishop of having organized the procession and of being responsible for the display of an improper flag. The Archbishop denied this and declared that he had not noticed the absence of the red star on the flag. He was released immediately by the authorities, but was not permitted to continue his proposed visits to other parishes.
8. On an average, only about 5 percent of the people in the Ptuj-Maribor area of Yugoslavia are members of the Yugoslav Communist Party. In the town of Velika Nedelja, which has a population of 1,500 people, there are only 8 Party members. Most of the Communists in Yugoslavia support Tito and Communist formists are to be found mainly among the leaders of the Party. The ordinary soldier actively supports Tito also, but only as long as he is in the military service. Many soldiers are Party members during their *tenure* of duty, but as soon as they return home they stop attending meetings and are automatically expelled from the Party. Returning soldiers have learned from experience that petty annoyances usually follow their dismissal from the Party but the expelled member is not seriously molested by the Party or security organs. If, however, the expelled person happens to be a Government employee or a school teacher, it is almost certain that he will be overlooked when promotions are made.

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