

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 24 JUL 50

SUBJECT The Concentration Camp Near Zrenjanin, Serbia

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PLACE ACQUIRED Greece, Athens

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Through a usually reliable source from an informant who was a prisoner in the camp.

- The concentration camp at Zrenjanin was established during World War II by the Nazis and later taken over by the UDB. Its capacity is not known, although between February and November 1949, there were approximately 800 persons incarcerated there. At present the camp is used to hold refugees from Hungary and Rumania. The commandant of the camp is UDB Captain Joseph Tubic, who speaks Hungarian.
- The buildings in which the prisoners are kept are two storeys high, measure twenty-six by eight meters, and are equipped with large wooden shelves arranged in tiers, which serve as bunks. Outside these barracks are concrete bunkers, two and one-half meters deep and two and one-half meters long, inside which are wells in which prisoners sentenced to solitary confinement are kept in a crouching position. The entire camp is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded by troops of the UDB. New arrivals are told by Tubic that the camp is the end of their journey; that anyone who breaks the rules will be shot.
- Treatment of the prisoners is very harsh; the daily food ration consists of tea, 400 grams of bread, and thin soup. Neither fuel nor blankets are issued during the winter months. The most minor infractions of the camp rules are punished by ten days' confinement in the bunkers. There is considerable corruption among the UDB guards who, in exchange for personal possessions, will obtain some food, mostly vegetables, for the prisoners.
- Artisans among the prisoners work at their trades in Zrenjanin and surrounding towns; the remainder are forced to work on nearby state collective farms, under the supervision of UDB sub-lieutenant Djuro Grabic.
- At various times during 1949, but especially in March, April, and July, an unspecified number of prisoners was taken to the border and forced back into Hungary and Rumania. During December 1949 and January 1950, an unspecified number of prisoners was sent to Dobroveni in Macedonia, where they were forced to work on a project to widen the Cerna Reka River.

- EXEMPTIONS Section
- (2)(A) Privacy
 - (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 - (2)(G) Foreign Involvement

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