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NEWS NOTES

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH

The following current news is circulated at once by reason of its timeliness. In conjunction with other and later intelligence the material may be used again in the longer-range studies of this Branch.

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Press Item

Account of Oral Interview

Confidential Report

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"WHY CROATIA DID NOT JOIN THE UNITED NATIONS"

-- Nasa Nada, 3 October 1944

THE Akron, Ohio Nasa Nada (3 October) printed in English an editorial entitled "Help Others Understand the Croatian Dilemma." Nasa Nada is the organ of the Croatian Catholic Union and a defender of the Croatian quisling, Ante Pavelich. The editorial quoted from an article in the Catholic weekly Our Sunday Visitor of 17 September. This article, asserted Nasa Nada, showed an understanding of "the situation in which the Croatians find themselves." The substance of the article as quoted by Nasa Nada follows:

After the First World War Austria-Hungary was divided into small parts and "millions of homogeneous people" were placed among other nationals whom they disliked. To Austria, Hitler's National Socialism seemed far better than the Communism and Socialism the people had lived through. Similarly, Hungary had not resisted Hitler because Germany had promised to restore to it Transylvania, "where 2,000,000 Hungarians were living against

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their will amid Rumanians, whose language and predominant religion were different."

Four million Croats /the quoted article continued/ who had formerly lived under Hungarian rule, were forced into Yugoslavia to be governed by the Serbs, for whom they had little love. This explains why Croatia did not follow the balance of Yugoslavia into a partnership with the United Nations. It was not because its people loved Hitler or Nazism, but because, like the Hungarians and Austrians, they remembered Versailles too well.