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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE COM.
ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

Col. Smith #
CI Bolt
in town

[Handwritten signature]

February 12, 1947

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Father Krunoslav DRAGANOVIC,
RE : PAST Background and PRESENT Activity.

1. Dr. Krunoslav DRAGANOVIC is a Croatian Catholic priest in the Monastery of San Geronimo, 132 Via Tomacelli, ROME. This man has for some time now been associated with Ustashi elements in Italy and, while in many instances it is hard to distinguish the activity of the Church from the activity of one man whose personal convictions might lie along a certain line, it is fairly evident in the case of Fr. DRAGANOVIC that his sponsorship of the Ustashi cause stems from a deep-rooted conviction that the ideas espoused by this arch-nationalist organization, half logical, half lunatic, are basically sound concepts.

2. Fr. DRAGANOVIC is a native of TRAVNIK where he finished his elementary and secondary school. Shortly after this he went to SARAJEVO to study theology and philosophy. Here he fell under the personal magnetism of Dr. Ivan SARIC, archbishop of SARAJEVO, whose particular interest he soon became and upon graduation he was sent to ROME under the auspices of Dr. SARIC who had some good connections in the Vatican.

3. Having completed his studies at ROME where he majored in ethnology and Balkan affairs he returned to SARAJEVO where he held various political offices, all of a minor importance. Shortly after the formation of the Independent State of Croatia under Ante PAVELIC in April 1941 DRAGANOVIC became one of the leading figures in the Bureau of Colonization. In the middle of 1943, however, he became involved in a disagreement over the relative merits of the younger Eugen KVATERNIK, whom he called a "madman and a lunatic", and he left Croatia and returned to ROME.

4. According to a reliable informant it is believed that this departure of DRAGANOVIC from Croatia to Italy is a classic example of "kicking a man upstairs" inasmuch as it is fairly well established that the leaders of the Independent State of Croatia expected the prelate, through his good connections in the Vatican, to be instrumental in working out the orientation of Croatia towards the West rather than the East. These same leaders, being occidental-minded and knowing full well that Croatia's militant Catholicism made her a "natural" in such a deal, relied on DRAGANOVIC to assist them in their aims. He was eminently unsuccessful.

5. DRAGANOVIC has a brother still in ZAGREB who is a member of the Napredak Co., who recently was ignored in the elections

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to determine the members of the Board of Directors . He has another brother, whereabouts unknown, who was a member of the Croatian Embassy in BERLIN . He is touch with his brother, ZVONKO, in ZAGREB but not with KRESO, whose whereabouts are not definitely known although he has been reported in the British zone in Germany .

6. About a year ago DRAGANOVIC is alleged in some circles to have somewhat denounced his now ardent pro-Ustashi sentiments during a conference of Croats in ROME. Having been accused by a certain Dr. KLJAKOVIC (apparently a member of the Croat Peasant Party) of being in very close contact with only Ustashi emigres DRAGANOVIC is said to have replied that if working for an independent Croatia meant being an Ustasha then "I am an Ustasha" . "However," he added, "I disassociate myself from all other attributes of the Ustashi."

7. With this aim in view DRAGANOVIC is working with the Ustashi and also with some leftovers of the Croat Peasant Party in exile . When Milan PRIBANIC, erstwhile Commandant of the Guard of Vlado MACEK, appeared in ROME, he immediately contacted him and thus made his aims and purposes clear to MACEK .

8. Many of the more prominent Ustashi war criminals and Quislings are living in ROME illegally, many of them under false names . Their cells are still maintained, their papers still published, and their intelligence agencies still in operation . All this activity seems to stem from the Vatican, through the Monastery of San Geronimo to Fermo, the chief Croat Camp in Italy . Chief among the intelligence operatives in the Monastery of San Geronimo appear to be Dr. DRAGANOVIC and Monsignor MADJARAC.

9. The main messenger between the Vatican, the Monastery and Fermo is an Ustasha student by the name of BRISKI . BRISKI was interned in the 209 POW Camp at AFRAGOLA and was with the Ustashi Cabinet members when their escape was organized from there. His physical description is as follows: 25 years old, medium height, black hair, seen mostly without a hat. Has very bad teeth in upper and lower jaw. Appears to be very wise.

10. This Agent managed to run a counter-operative into this Monastery to find out if possible if the internal setup of the place was as had been alleged, namely that it was honeycombed with cells of Ustashi operatives. This was established and several things more but operations were stopped abruptly when it became too dangerous for the counter-intelligence agent in the Monastery . The following facts were ascertained:

11. In order to enter this Monastery one must submit to a personal search for weapons and identification documents, must answer questions as to where he is from, who he is, whom he knows, what his purpose is in the visit, and how he heard about the fact that there were Croats in the Monastery . All doors from one room to another are locked and those that are not have an armed guard in front of them and a pass-word is necessary to go from one room to another . The whole area is guarded by armed Ustashi youths in civilian clothes and the Ustashi salute is exchanged continually .

12. It was further established that the following prominent ex-

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Ustashi Ministers are either living in the Monastery, or living in the Vatican and attending meetings several times a week at San Geronimo :

- 1) Ivan DEVCIC, Lt. Colonel
- 2) VRANCIC, Dr. Vjekoslav, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- 3) TOTI, Dr. Dragutin, Minister of Croat State Treasury.
- 4) SUSIC, Lovro, Minister of Corporations in Croatian Quisling Government
- 5) STARCEVIC, Dr. Mile, Croat Minister of Education.
- 6) RUPCIC, General Dragutin, General of Ustashi Air Force.
- 7) PERIC, Djordje, Serbian Minister of Propaganda under NEDIC.
- 8) PECNIKAR, Vilko-Ustasha General and CO of Ustashi Gendarmerie
- 9) MARKOVIC, Josip, Minister of Transport in Pavelic Government.
- 10) KREN, Vladimir-Commander-in-Chief of the Croat Air Force.

13. While this "Croat", directed by this Agent to try to penetrate the Croat intelligence network, was inside the Monastery he personally heard a conversation ensue between this Monsignor MADJARAC and Dr. SUSIC, who, at the time of the conversation, was in the Vatican library. He also heard a conversation between two of the Ustashi in the monastery which established the fact that a brother of DR. PERIC runs a hotel in ROME, and that often this hotel is visited at night for the purpose of holding important Ustashi conferences. The money for the purchase of the hotel was given this man by his brother, Dr. PERIC.

14. It was further established that these Croats travel back and forth from the Vatican several times a week in a car with a chauffeur whose license plate bears the two initials CD, "Corpo Diplomatico". It issues forth from the Vatican and discharges its passengers inside the Monastery of San Geronimo. Subject to diplomatic immunity it is impossible to stop the car and discover who are its passengers.

15. DRAGANOVIC'S sponsorship of these Croat Quislings definitely links him up with the plan of the Vatican to shield these ex-Ustashi nationalists until such time as they are able to procure for them the proper documents to enable them to go to South America. The Vatican, undoubtedly banking on the strong anti-Communist feelings of these men, is endeavoring to infiltrate them into South America in any way possible to counteract the spread of Red doctrine. It has been reliably reported, for example that Dr. VRANCIC has already gone to South America and that Ante PAVELIC and General KREN are scheduled for an early departure to South America through Spain. All these operations are said to have been negotiated by DRAGANOVIC because of his influence in the Vatican.

16. This Agent will continue to make an effort to keep abreast of the situation in this area and also to advise G-2 of any new plans or changes of operations on the part of DRAGANOVIC and his satellites.

Robert Clayton Mudd
 ROBERT CLAYTON MUDD
 SPECIAL AGENT, CIC

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