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SECURITY INFORMATION

From: Argentina, Buenos Aires

Report No: TAB-3232

Local File No:

No. of Pages: 3

No. of Enclosures: None

Report Made By: M

Approved By:

Distribution:

By copy to:  - Wash

Orally to: None

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10

Source Cryptonym: A.   H & I, paras 1,6,9, / TAB-2928; TAB-3160 and B.   , paras 7,8,10 References: allied references.

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

28 November 1951

Subject: Krunoslav Stjepan (Esteban) DRAGONOVIC

Field Comment: It is realized that much of the information in the attached report is already known to Headquarters. However, Sources were asked to give their opinion concerning Subject and his political leanings in view of   allegations that he is a Soviet agent.

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SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Subject: Krunoslav Stjepan (Esteban)  
DRAGONOVIC

Report No: TAB-3232

Date of Information: 1941 to November 1951

Place Acquired: Argentina, Buenos Aires

Date Acquired: 15 November 1951

Evaluation: B-3

Date of Report: 28 November 1951

Source: Individuals With Contacts Among Slav Groups

1. Subject was born in Bosnia, west central Yugoslavia. He studied theology at the Jesuit Seminary in Sarajevo. Afterwards he obtained his doctor's degree in theology in Rome. As a young priest, he spent several years in Bosnia, principally in Sarajevo and worked with various newspapers.
2. In 1941 Subject was named professor of ecclesiastic history in the School of Theology of the University of Zagreb. Subject's first publication was Massenubertritte von Katholiken zur Orthodoxie in Kroatischen Sprachgebiet zur Zeit der Turkenherrschaft (Orientalia Christiana Periodica, Vol. III, 1937. He dedicated himself to the statistical studies concerning confessions in Yugoslavia and published a document entitled Katolicka Croka u Jugoslavijo (Catholic Church in Yugoslavia) and later a historical map of Bosnia with reference to the country's migrations and changes produced under the Turkish domination.
3. In 1943 in Rome Subject, in collaboration with various Croat Catholic writers, published a book in Italian called Croazia Sacra. It is a propaganda work in favor of the Croat cause with the object of presenting to the Italian Catholic circles information regarding the activities of the Catholic church in Croatia. Except for one article, the work serves as a good source of information. In 1946 in Rome under Subject's direction, there was published a book in Latin called Martirium Croatiae. Its purpose was to present to the Catholic world leaders the sufferings of the Croat people under the Communist regime, and to stimulate appreciation of the difficult situation of the emigrants. The work's greatest drawback is that it insists in the defense of the PAVELIC regime. Subject's literary works consist of two parts; one that refers to the study of historical and statistical problems and the other that pertains to the character of political propaganda.
4. Subject, having been born in a province where there were three cultures, western, eastern-orthodox and Moslem, and reared in an atmosphere of violent political struggles during the Serbian oppression, was predisposed to engage in anti-Serbian political activities. In 1941 Subject was one of the most outstanding collaborators of the Institute of Internal Colonization. On one occasion, he declared later, that in order not to compromise himself as a priest, he wore the uniform of an USTACHI officer.

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5. During the Second World War, Subject performed many important missions for Ante PAVELIC. He was a member of the committee that forcibly converted thousands of Serbians from the Serbian Orthodox to the Roman Catholic Church. During the war, the Croatian State had a representative in the Vatican. Subject, then an ecclesiastical assistant was named by PAVELIC as delegate of the Croat government. While he fulfilled this office, Subject published the above mentioned book, Croazia Sacra, with funds of the Croat state. Subject resided in Vatican City in Borgo Pio for many years.

6. Subject remained in Rome during the last phase of the war. At the end, he found himself in a favorable situation, with the possibility of being able to travel as a constituent of the Pontifical Commission. He was the first one to be able to renew contacts with the Croat emigrants from Italy, Austria and Germany. Thus, Subject quickly became one of the most active personalities among the Croat emigrants. However, he did very little for the needy and for those in danger of being extradited. He occupied himself principally in political intrigues. With the object of creating friends among the Serbians, he helped the "chetniks" Serbians and the more outstanding Croat enemies, for example: DJUSIC, JEVNEVIC and JOVOVIC. Subject hid them in Italy in the convents and helped them get out of Italy. He obtained a Spanish visa for JOVOVIC. It is not clear for what reason he decided to engage in contraband of outstanding Nazis, or why he dealt with one FREUDE, (fnu) in Argentina. On the occasion of a visit to Argentina two years ago, he declared he engaged in such work in order to gain money to help the Croats rejected by IRO.

7. Source B states that after the war, Subject had contacts with Allied missions especially IRO, and facilitated the emigration of many Croats, principally USTASHI, and several important ex-Nazis who came to Argentina under false names. Among others that he helped to emigrate to Argentina, Venezuela and Paraguay are several Slovenes and Serbians. A few years ago when Subject was in Argentina, he tried to obtain permits for more Croat emigrants, but apparently failed in this endeavor. One of Subject's close friends here was a Jesuit Father Ivan NIKOLIC, who left Argentina two or three years ago and is now in the United States. It is also believed that Subject was instrumental in bringing PAVELIC to Argentina. However, it is stated by his most intimate friends, JORSANIC, (fnu)\* and ZANKO, (fnu)\*\* that he has turned against PAVELIC, as he is also against the Serbians and Yugoslavians and is in favor of an independent Croatian state.

8. According to Source B, at the end of the war, Subject went from Austria to Rome with a considerable amount of gold which PAVELIC and his men brought with them in their flight before the TITO forces, and which he kept for himself and his friends. However, there was a rumor among Subject's friends that the greatest part of the gold that he brought from Austria was taken from him by PAVELIC's Commander, General PLOŠNIKAR (PLEŠNIKAR), who, with two of his henchmen entered Subject's room in a convent and with pistols forced him to give it up. With this gold, it is said that PLOŠNIKAR organized a transport society which soon failed. It was also rumored that later the two of them were working together. TITO's regime is now claiming Subject as a war criminal. Source A stated that from Austria, Subject transferred to Italy a large sum of Croat state funds with the authority to dispose of the same. The book, Martirium Croatiae, was paid for with this money.

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9. Subject is famous for personal ambition and for engaging in nefarious activities. He is intelligent, active and courageous. Those persons with whom he has had contact in recent years are of the opinion that he is not the ingenuous priest that he used to be. He now appears to be a mysterious person and his compatriots do not have confidence in him.

10 Both Source A and B consider Subject to be anti-Communist.

\*Field Comment: This individual is possibly identical with either Ivo (Ivan ORSANIC or Professor Juan ORSANIC).

\*\*Field Comment: This individual is possibly identical with Dushan ZANKO, PAVELIC's Minister to Vichy (from a report dated Nov. 4, 1948 by Source B)

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