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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

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[LIST OF CHARACTERS] NETWORK,

13 Dec 58

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20. The highest-placed Yugoslavian in the network (although he would probably deny the Yugoslav tag, preferring to be a Croatian), is Father Irvanoslav DRAGANOVIC. At various times, DRAGANOVIC has been accused of working for the following intelligence services:

- Italian IS
- Ustasha IS
- Soviet IS
- OSPAL rat-line (as chief)
- "an American Agency in the PM field"
- OSACID, Rome
- French IS
- Vatican IS
- a World Council of Churches spotting mechanism
- Yugoslavian IS (unwittingly)

21. An OSPAL report, of 12 February 1957, gives perhaps the most substantiated information on DRAGANOVIC, and is paraphrased herewith FBI. Dr. Irvanoslav DRAGANOVIC is a Croatian Catholic priest in the monastery of San Geronimo, Rome. The 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 certain lines, it is fairly evident in the case of DRAGANOVIC that his sponsorship of the Ustashi cause stems from a deep-rooted conviction that the ideas espoused by this arch-nationalistic organization, half logical, half fanatic, are basically sound concepts. Father DRAGANOVIC is a native of Irvnik, where he finished his elementary and secondary school. Shortly after that he went to Sarajevo to study theology and philosophy. Here he fell under the personal magnetism of Dr. Ivan SARIC, who had some good connections in the Vatican. Having completed his studies at Rome, where he went under the auspices of SARIC, whose personal interest he had become, he returned to Sarajevo where he held various political offices, all of minor importance. His Vatican studies encompassed ethnology and Balkan affairs. Shortly after the formation of the Independent State

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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



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PERTINENT INFORMATION

2. The background information in the above report is generally confirmed from other sources, but the specifics of the Ustashi movement's use of the monastery area, of course, peculiar to the CIOPAL report.

21. BRACANOVIC was considered the Ustasha charge d'affair in Rome during the war. Immediately following the war he was instrumental in setting up an organization called the "Bretovetina Relief Association", which was used to obtain funds from the Patriotic Commission of Assistance, the Red Cross, and other similar organizations, for the purpose of facilitating Italian warworn to South America, primarily Argentina. The work of Bretovetina apparently included the issuing of false documentation to these refugees, since many of them were officially listed as war criminals for their collaboration with the Axis, and could not emigrate under their own names.

24. The charges that BRACANOVIC was a member of the RJS have been largely discounted as having been instigated as a form of reprisal by the partisans against him. The charges have varied from simply taking refuge for financing Italian-Slovene communists to a list of refugees to be considered as being part of a Soviet intelligence gathering network under the name of Stephen KROGLI. None of the charges was ever proved.

25. Several reports state that BRACANOVIC was used by the Italian Ministry of Justice as an informant of their Foreigners Office.

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14. 26. Several reports also state that DRAGANOVIC was used by the French IS, one report naming him as an agent of the Bureau de Documentation of the SDCE (Service Documentation Extérieure et Centre-Exploitation) which had the dual function of gathering intelligence and engaging in CR work. This last information is evaluated as B-2.

27. The KUTJIN, KUBARK, SDOPAL, and ODACID connections of DRAGANOVIC are more hazy, but there is the statement that he was chief of an ODOPAL rat-line. Although the report mentioned did come from ODOPAL, it is not an operational one, but rather a report of information gathered from other sources. There is no comment on the veracity of this information. ODACID, Doss, investigation failed to uncover any contacts DRAGANOVIC might have had there. DRAGANOVIC did pass along information to KUTJIN with the understanding that it was going to an Allied intelligence service. There is an indication that KUBARK also received some DRAGANOVIC information, but through a cut-out device.

28. A number of DRAGANOVIC's most trusted henchmen, including PALIC and RADAN, were later proved to be members of the Yugoslav IS, and a KUBARK BEFORE report stated that the YIS had succeeded in controlling DRAGANOVIC's activities through use of its own agents, who used the cover of Ustashi refugees.

29. Two reports state that DRAGANOVIC was in contact with the World Council of Churches office, to which he gave leads on refugees to be "aided". The files on DRAGANOVIC's referants were kept separately in the office of the Chief of the WCC mission.

30. During World War II, reports stated that DRAGANOVIC was often reported wearing the uniform of a Ustashi colonel, and was responsible for massacres and the forcing into labor battalions of Orthodox persons. He was vice-chief of the Ustashi (non-clerical) office for the colonization and distribution to Ustashi of property taken from Orthodox persons to assign them to the ranks of the peasants.

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31. After a falling out with PAVELIC, DRAGANOVIC attempted a liaison with MACEK and his Croatian group, but was rebuffed. He then established a movement called the Croatian Independent Movement, which intended to assemble all Croats abroad. It was actually a Ustaški cover-up, evidently, because the ruling committee was chosen at a closed meeting attended by only Ustaški. This group was, in its turn, rebuffed by the European Union in favor of the MACEK group.

32. ACSI reported that DRAGANOVIC made several trips to Salzburg and held conferences with all representatives of the Society of Croats in Austria. He is said to have brought gold to Austria for refugee escape purposes. (It is assumed that, among the others contacted, DRAGANOVIC met with CEREDA during these trips.)

33. DRAGANOVIC had an unsavory reputation for his work among the Croatian refugee camps in Italy. One report stated that he was extorting 25,000 lire each from refugees against the promise of aid for their emigration. He attempted political conversions during sermons to camp inmates, heard confessions and labeled as communist anyone who should not confess to him, thus barring them from leaving the camp.

34. DRAGANOVIC is reported to have been in contact with the Falangist organizations in Spain, as well as with Pax Romana, the Catholic student organization there.

35. DRAGANOVIC is further reported to have been approached to join the "Fascist International" to be formed in Austria.

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12. of Croatia under Ante PAVELIC in April 1941, DRACANOVIC became one of the leading figures in the Bureau of Colonization. In the middle of 1941, however, he became involved in a disagreement over the relative merits of the younger Eugen VAFERIN, whom he called a "madman and a fanatic", and he left Croatia and returned to Rome. It is believed that his departure from Croatia to Italy is a classic example of "kicking a man upstairs" in as much as it is fairly well established that the leaders of the Croatian state expected the prelate, through his good connections with the Vatican, to be instrumental in working out the orientation of Croatia toward 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, failed to insist on VAFERIN to assist them in their aims. He was entirely unsuccessful. Many of the more prominent Ustaasi war criminals and saboteurs are living in Rome illegally, many of them under false names. The Vatican calls 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 Gerolamo, to Ferris, the chief Ustaasi camp in Italy. Chief among the intelligence operatives in San Gerolamo appear to be DRACANOVIC and Monsignore MILJANAC. GEOPAL ran a CX operation on the monastery. It was established that the monastery was honeycombed with Ustaasi calls; was, in fact, a fairly important refuge for Ustaasi escapees (i.e., war criminals). "In order to enter the 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 password is necessary to go from one room to another. The whole area is guarded by armed Ustaasi youths in civilian clothes and the Ustaasi rule is exchanged continually." A closed ear, with diplomatic plates, made about daily trips between the monastery and the Vatican. The strong implication of visits of the various Ustaasi leaders to the Vatican would be that "the Vatican, undoubtedly heavily on the crime, anti-democratic feelings of the war, is endeavoring to infiltrate their into South America in any way possible to maintain the spread of the doctrine."

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