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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cleveland, Ohio

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY October 25, 1967
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

Doctor KRUNOSLAV DRAGANOVIC

BRANKO YIRKA, 2903 Edgehill Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, advised on October 22, 1967, that he had just received a letter from a friend in Rome, Italy. Mr. YIRKA learned from this letter that Doctor KRUNOSLAV DRAGANOVIC had mysteriously disappeared around mid-September, 1967, in Trieste, Italy.

Mr. YIRKA said that Doctor DRAGANOVIC is a very prominent Croatian who is about 64 years old. Mr. YIRKA advised DRAGANOVIC is a noted scholar, historian, humanitarian and a Roman Catholic Priest, who is known by Croats throughout the world. He was active in Rome, Italy, during the period 1943 to 1953, assisting thousands of Croatian emigrants fleeing Communist Yugoslavia to relocate in various free countries.

Since about 1953, Doctor DRAGANOVIC has been living in a monastery at Sacre Coeur which is located near Vienna, Austria. He has been living in seclusion and doing research for a book which he plans to publish soon. Doctor DRAGANOVIC has been collecting information for about 20 years concerning the Bleiburg tragedy. This tragedy concerns the slaughter of 200,000 Croatian soldiers who had been delivered by the British to TITO at the end of World War II. As a result of his research and his work with Croatian emigrants during the period 1943 to 1953, Doctor DRAGANOVIC has documents and information of important historical value relating to what actually happened in Yugoslavia during World War II and the years thereafter.

Mr. YIRKA said there is grave concern among the Croats about the whereabouts of Doctor DRAGANOVIC. At the beginning of September, 1967, he was in Rome, Italy, on a vacation. He left Rome on September 5 or 6, 1967, to come to Trieste. He was to return to Vienna, Austria, after visiting Trieste. Doctor DRAGANOVIC never returned to Vienna. He was last seen in Trieste about mid-September, 1967. Mr. YIRKA said that the Vienna radio and press had mentioned his disappearance but had no information concerning the circumstances of his disappearance.

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RE: Doctor KRUNOSLAV DRAGANOVIC

Mr. YIRKA advised he believes, as do other Croatians, that Doctor DRAGANOVIC was abducted by the Yugoslav Intelligence Service. Since it was known that he was shortly going to publish his historical analysis of the Bleiburg Tragedy and other facts regarding the Communist-Yugoslav Regime, YIRKA believes that the Yugoslav Intelligence Service kidnaped DRAGANOVIC to prevent the publication of this book which would be embarrassing to the Yugoslav Government.

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