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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

OIR-42016
27 November 1967

MEMORANDUM TO HEADQUARTERS CHIEF

(dated 16 Nov. 1967)

Subject: Case of Professor ~~the~~ Father DRAGANOVIC

The ~~the~~ above mentioned, almost certainly came from Austria (as is known he is an Austrian citizen) and he arrived in TRIESTE sometime between September 4 and ⁸ 8, 1967.

He is supposed to have been received on September 3, 1967 in Rome by Dr. CONFORTI, Head of the Alien Office of this headquarters (information from Dr. LA PENNA representative of the United Nations in the CPE). On the contrary Dr. CONFORTI is supposed to have ^{maintained} ~~claimed~~ that he did not receive him (information from Headquarters in TRIESTE).

It was not possible to exactly determine the date of the arrival of DRAGANOVIC in TRIESTE, since he did not register in any hotel in TRIESTE or its environs. It appears however (to Headquarters) that he may have stayed at the DELFINO di SISTIANA Hotel.

DRAGANOVIC arrived in TRIESTE together with:

SAHIN, Asim - Turkish citizen

GALIC, Ivan - Yugoslav citizen

both reside in TRIESTE and are well known both to the Local Headquarters as well as to the ^{Central Intelligence Agency} CS Center as persons who will do anything to make money, trading in all types of goods,

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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without any scruples, etc.

During his stay in TRIESTE, DRAGANOVIC had contacts not based on any particular reason with:

MESINOVIC, Ahmed - a stateless person of Yugoslav origin

KOLIC, Giovanni - a stateless person of Yugoslav origin

SAHIN, Kazim - A Turkish citizen (brother of SAHIN, Asim),

all residing in TRIESTE.

In speaking with them, DRAGANOVIC did not indicate in any way that he intends to return to Yugoslavia.

The three persons mentioned above are the ones who reported that DRAGANOVIC was in TRIESTE. However, they could not give any explanation about his return to Yugoslavia. Voluntary or compulsory?

The last traces about the presence of Father DRAGANOVIC in TRIESTE go back to September 9 (Saturday) and 10 (Sunday), 1967. On those days, the priest celebrated Mass in the Mariano di Monte GRISA Church (OPICINA-TRIESTE). This is clear from the church register which all foreign priests who celebrate Mass there must sign and indicate the day and hour of the Mass. (A photostatic copy of the register sheet with the above information is in possession of this Headquarters -- a copy was also sent to the chief of the Counterespionage Center in TRIESTE). CARITAS CROATA-22 HALLBRUNNER Street - SALZSBURG

AUSTRIA) was also interested in the presence of Father DRAGANOVIC in TRIESTE and his later disappearance. It sent one of its employees to TRIESTE with a letter, a copy of which I am attaching, addressed to Father VITTORIO (in the ^{lay} world Vittorio ANTOLOVICH) chaplain of the foreign refugee camp in TRIESTE. The letter contained a number of requests.

Thus it was ascertained that Father DRAGANOVIC had celebrated Mass ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the MARIANO ~~di OPICINA~~ Church, in *Opicina, Trieste*

When the Headquarters in TRIESTE contacted the Italian Public Security Inspectorate at the Holy See in Rome to obtain information about the disappearance of DRAGANOVIC, it received the following answer:

Father DRAGANOVIC returned to Yugoslavia voluntarily. The Vatican is not interested in the matter any further. (Maximum reserve).

The Turkish citizen SAHIN Asim, who as is known ^{to have} arrived in TRIESTE together with DRAGANOVIC, is now hospitalized in SARAJEVO ^{with a heart attack} ~~for an infarction (?)~~. One of his nephews has left TRIESTE to go and see him. SAHIN, on learning he had been accused by the Croatian Committee of having collaborated in the kidnapping of DRAGANOVIC, reported that he will come to TRIESTE, as soon as he can, and will explain his complete

non-involvement in the matter. (In Headquarters).

OBSERVATION

From information picked up, which probably is more or less the same as that in possession of all the organizations interested in this matter (Headquarters, Counterespionage, Croatian Committee, etc) it has not been possible to determine with absolute certainty whether DRAGANOVIC returned to Yugoslavia on his own will or because he was forced to.

The prevailing opinion is that he returned on his own will. The following facts would confirm this opinion:

Although an Austrian citizen, Austria has not moved a finger to find out what has happened to him, at least up to now;

^I If there had been any reason at all to believe that the kidnapping took place in TRIESTE, even the Italian authorities would have had to take a position;

^A Although a priest, the Vatican "is not interested in the matter".

No one in the ecclesiastical ^{field} has moved a finger. Slavs and refugees are so numerous in TRIESTE that someone should have been able to supply some information;

^{Camp} The Chaplain, of Croatian origin, did not receive any

orders to investigate the disappearance of DRAGANOVIC;

^Ihe only ones that have agitated and still are agitating are the various Croatian Committee^s (refugees abroad) that naturally want to take advantage of the matter for their political interests;

^If Yugoslavia wanted to kidnap DRAGANOVIC, it could have done it long before and not 20 years after the end of the war ~~which it is when~~ (and ~~since then~~ DRAGANOVIC left Yugoslavia);

Yugoslavia would not have done it now, immediately after the signing of the well-known Concordat with the Vatican.

It finally appears that DRAGANOVIC, formerly head of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius (in which all the Yugoslav political refugees of the Catholic faith are spiritually united) was removed from this post by the Vatican when it began the first contacts which later led to signing the Concordat with Yugoslavia.

b) - ^{ignor} ~~Monseigneur~~ ^N KRUMOSLAV DRAGANOVIC

Up to November 14, 1967.

The case of this priest, formerly a close collaborator of the leader of the independent Croatian State, Ante PAVELIC, has already been widely covered in the press. On the inquiry of the source, the federal authorities of the government

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definitely ridiculous^d news from Vienna about the disappearance of the Mons^{ignor}seigneur. In particular, the Information Secretary of the Federal Executive Council gave his word he didn't know anything about it. He was probably telling the truth.

Mons. DRAGANOVIC was already in Yugoslavia and the only ones who knew anything about it were a few persons on the Executive Committee of the Council, in the Vatican and the envoy of the Holy See in Belgrade, Mons. CAGNA. The priests' repatriation is still rather mysterious. It is obvious to the source that the Office of the Papal Nuncio knew about his return. Mons. QUILLICI, a member of the Vatican Representation, on being informed by the source of the communication from the Assistant Attorney General that Mons. DRAGANOVIC was "handed over" to the Yugoslav authorities, did not hide his surprise that "the matter was made a subject of public discussion". He went into the office of the source, who gave him the report of the press conference held by the Deputy Attorney General, together with a photostatic copy of the letter written by Mons. DRAGANOVIC "in his own hand". The source reproached him jokingly: "Reciprocity in information, Mons^{ignore}seigneur, otherwise, no collaboration". He blushed all over, poor fellow! However, he kept the secret.

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It is certain that the Vatican Representation was immediately informed of the case of Mons. DRAGANOVIC as provided for by the agreements of June 1966. And it is probable that the Holy See had some part in the decisions taken by the old opponent of the Yugoslav Communist regime, if he really was repatriated ^{of} ~~on~~ his own free will. The above-mentioned agreement, which regulates relations between the Holy See and the Yugoslav Government, provides, among other things, for the recognition by the Yugoslav Government of the spiritual jurisdiction of the Holy See over the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia. In its turn, the Holy See has promised to comply with some Yugoslav requests. Among the most important: approval of the statement of principles that the activity of Catholic churchmen, in the exercise of their priestly functions, must take place in a religious and ecclesiastical atmosphere, so that the possible abuse of these functions "for purposes which really are of a political nature" is illegal. In addition the Holy See has promised to examine cases which the Yugoslav Government believes it should point out to it concerning, precisely "political activities" by priests; again, in answer to an explicit request of the Yugoslav Government "in conformity with the principles of Catholic morality, it disapproves and condemns any act of terrorism and similar

criminal forms of political violence, by whoever it is done".
~~Overlooking~~ ^{Skimming over} his contribution during the war, Mons. DRAGANOVIC continued being an outstanding political personality even afterwards, guiding the opposition abroad, made up for the most part of Croats, "Ustachis" or not, and causing no little embarrassment to the Yugoslav Communist regime. As is known, he was sent in 1943 to Rome as an envoy of the Croatian Government - the head of a delegation to the Vatican (diplomatic relations did not exist between the Holy See and the independent Croatian State) at the end of hostilities, he remained in Rome, installed in the College of S. GEROLAMO. He made his moves from there. He aided the expatriation of many Yugoslav anti-Communists, whom he equipped with documents and visas so that they might find refuge in the most ^{di}verse countries. He was the one who organized the trip to Latin America of Ante PAVELIC and his right arm ARTU^KOVIC, both included on the list of "war criminals" (ARTU^KOVIC, Minister of the Interior with PAVELIC is now in the United States). He moved - perhaps because his further presence in Rome was an embarrassment to the Holy See - to Austria from where he directed an intense propaganda campaign against the TITO Government, and perhaps not only propaganda.

The Vienna Government granted him Austrian citizenship,

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which however the Yugoslavs do not recognize (in this connection, the Austrian Ambassador in Belgrade has initiated negotiations with the Yugoslav Government in connection with the Mons. DRAGANOVIC "case"). It is obvious that the position of Mons^{ignor}~~ignor~~ DRAGANOVIC ^{and} ~~is~~ that of numerous other Yugoslav clergymen who are involved in the activities of organizations of anti-Communist refugees, ^{which} ~~these~~ activities are often of an exclusively political nature and even go so far as ~~to~~ sabotage in Yugoslavia ^{and} terrorism inside and outside their homeland; These ^{activities} ~~clergymen~~ now find themselves in conflict with the pledges of the Vatican, ^{and} with certain new policies of the Catholic Church toward the Socialist countries. Mons. DRAGANOVIC is again in Yugoslavia and he probably will not be sentenced (the amnesty of 1962 applies in his respect for the "crime" for which he was responsible during the war) nor for the "propaganda" activity he conducted abroad and which he has been accused of many times. The fact that he is at liberty is eloquent. And the other Yugoslav priests who ^{are} ~~were~~ involved in politics abroad will be put in a condition of "not being able to hurt".

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