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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED AMERICAN CROATIANS

On January 11, 1968, John Zivkovic, 2240 South Alma Street, San Pedro, California, furnished a Special Agent of the FBI with the following information:

Zivkovic stated that he is President of the San Pedro Branch of the United American Croatsians, which branch is called "Dalmatia". The Secretary is Svetko Vladic. He stated that this branch is merely a "paper organization" as it does not hold regular meetings and has no formal offices. He stated there is no Treasurer because no dues are collected and consequently there is no treasury. He advised that the individuals that are members of "Dalmatia" are also members of the American Croatian Club of San Pedro.

When meetings are to be held they utilize the address and office of the American Croatian Club.

Zivkovic stated that the National Office is located in New York City and the National President is Miro Gal.

He advised that the official publication of the United American Croatsians is called "Vjesnik", which is published every three months. Zivkovic attended the Eighth Croatian Congress, which was held in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 2 and 3, 1967, as a representative of the Committee for Croatian Societies, which represents all of the Croatian groups in California.

Zivkovic stated that the American Croatian Club engages in anti-communist activities and has often been unjustly labeled as fascist because of their activities.

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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UNITED AMERICAN CROATIANS

As a result of this the American Croatian Club has had difficulty in attracting other Croatians to join. He stated that the United American Croatians do not have this stigma attached to it and is regarded as a respectable organization.

He stated the purpose of the United American Croatians is to bring to the attention of the President and other prominent government leaders, as well as individuals of prominence, issues which arise in which Croatians have a vital interest. He stated that usually this is done by writing letters, and since the United American Croatian Organization has risen in scope and has a large membership, they feel that by such action they can secure more positive action from those to whom their appeals are directed.

Zivkovic furnished a copy of a typical letter which was written to the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C., by members of the United American Croatians. This letter concerns a Dr. Krunoslav Draganovic.

A copy of this letter is attached herewith.

Zivkovic stated that the members of the "Dalmatia" club of the United American Croatians are as follows:

Ante Huljev	Mario Forgiarini
Enc Vilcic	Vinco Maric
Svetko Vladic	Evo Labor

Zivkovic stated that his organization would not do anything that would be opposed to the laws of the United States of America, and that anything that they do would not be done to embarrass or discredit the United States. He stated that their aim is to one day have a free state of Croatia and he added that the members are loyal Americans and are opposed to communism.

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The Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Prof. Dr. Krunoslav Draganovic, a respected Croatian emigrant priest and a great humanitarian, suddenly and mysteriously disappeared from Trieste, Italy on or about September 10, 1967.

After almost two months of useless search by his friends, the Yugoslav authorities announced on November 11, 1967 that Professor Krunoslav Draganovic was living in Yugoslavia since September 17, 1967, where he allegedly has voluntarily returned. They also published a letter supposedly written by Draganovic about his voluntary return to Yugoslavia.

Judging from the postwar Communistic regime's methods in getting rid of undesirable opponents to their system, within or without Yugoslavia, we have some very serious reasons to suspect that a brutal force and foul play were used in taking him from Trieste, Italy to Yugoslavia against the rules of international law. In the hands of the Yugoslav police, he was subjected to physical and psychological tortures and pressures until his will and his personality were completely broken down.

Prof. Draganovic was always in opposition to the Communistic system in Yugoslavia, and for that reason Belgrade considered him an enemy and said so publicly many times.

Despite the Belgrade announcement, it is inconceivable that Prof. Draganovic would, all of a sudden, return of his own free will to the regime he so opposed in Yugoslavia. In fact, a letter written just a few days before his disappearance proves the opposite, because in it he openly speaks about his plans to return very soon to his place of work at Pressbaum, near Vienna, Austria.

Knowing that he was proclaimed an enemy of Communism by the regime in Belgrade, he often expressed his fear that he might be kidnapped or murdered by the secret police agents of Yugoslavia. He had good reason to feel that way because several attempts were made to kidnap him. Realizing his situation, he wrote a statement in 1965 which he left with an attorney, and also with a priest in Rome, Italy. In this statement, he said as follows:

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"Being aware that I am constantly exposed to an assassination or a kidnapping, with this my public statement, while still in full possession of my mental powers and in an absolute freedom, I am informing the whole Croatian public opinion in the country and abroad (in the emigration) that, in the case of my disappearance or an assassination the culprits should be sought at the doors of the Yugoslav regime. That regime tried already several times to kidnap me by force. Now I solemnly state, while still a free man and in the possession of my physical powers: whatever I might confess, write or sign in the case that I fall into the hands of Yugoslav police, all that must be considered as done against my free will and conviction."

On August 8, 1967, in Munchen, Germany, Professor Draganovic wrote the foreword to the booklet "Pred vratima domovine" (At the Fatherland's Doors). In that foreword he wrote about the various attempts of assassination and kidnapping by the Yugoslav secret police in different countries. In it he quoted words of an officer of the Yugoslav secret police: "We will get Draganovic - dead or alive." Then he continues: "What is my destiny? I don't know. I know that I am not 'worthy' of any such international scandal, but if they (Yugoslav police) think so, I know that no threats will turn me back from the road which my priesthood and my Croatian patriotism command me to follow. I know further that, with the help of God, my destiny will find me ready. If this happens, it will be evident to all who is ordering such an act, and for what purpose."

Would such a man, who on top of all was preparing a book about the crimes of Yugoslav regime against the Croatian nation return of his own free will to his persecutors and to a possible death?

Therefore, it must be evident that the statement of Prof. Draganovic about his "voluntary" return to Yugoslavia does not correspond to the truth and was in fact given under duress, pressure or blackmail, and it should be considered, according to his own prior wish, invalid and void.

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As an American of Croatian descent I kindly ask you to take all possible steps to save this outstanding priest and patriot from further physical and moral suffering, or even a possible death in Yugoslav prison.

I sincerely thank you for any effort on your part which may effect the release of Prof. Krunoslav Draganovic.

Very truly yours,

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