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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

March 6, 1968

Title

KRUNOSLAV DRAGANCVIC COMMITTEE,  
SAN FRANCISCO

Character

INTERNAL SECURITY - Yugoslavia

Reference

San Francisco memorandum dated  
and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
information in the past.

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KRUNOSLAV DRAGANOVIC COMMITTEE,  
SAN FRANCISCO

In November, 1967, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised as follows:

A group of Croatians from the Croatian Home in San Francisco planned a demonstration at the Yugoslav Consulate in San Francisco on November 18, 1967 to protest the mysterious disappearance of Krunoslav Draganovic, a man who had been active for 20 years in aiding escapees from both Fascist-occupied and later Tito-Communist Yugoslavia.

The San Francisco group claimed that Draganovic had been kidnapped by Yugoslav UDBa Agents in Trieste, Italy in mid September, 1967, and taken over into Yugoslavia for punishment.

The UDBa is a frequently used term to describe the Yugoslav Intelligence and Security Service.

The committee said that this man had not been personally heard from since the time of his alleged abduction. Members of the original committee were Ivo Vucicevic, Zvonko Prihanich, Jozo Bajurin, Nikola Chargin and Anton Krsinich. The first two were in charge of this affair and actually were said by source to be the leaders of the group. Subsequently the same source advised that about 50 Croatians had participated in the orderly picket line.

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The source again advised on November 27, 1967, that the group would again demonstrate on behalf of the Draganovic case on November 29, 1967, on which occasion the Yugoslav Consulate would be holding its annual National Day Party at the San Francisco Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

The source was doubtful as to the value which would be gained from this second demonstration coming so close upon the completion of the first one.

A second source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the above demonstration did take place with about 65 persons in the picket line.

The "San Francisco Monitor" newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, issue of November 23, 1967, published an interview with Dr. William Meinzi, a part-time tutor residing in Burlingame, California. In this article, Meinzi stated that he was a member of the Croatian Home in San Francisco which had picketed the consulate on November 18, 1967. The Monitor gave a short biography of Draganovic, saying that in 1941 he had been head of all Catholic rescue and charitable organizations including the Croatian Red Cross, in the Italian-Yugoslav area.

The "Russian Life", a San Francisco Russian language newspaper, issue of December 12, 1967, page two, stated that it had received an appeal from the Yugoslav political immigrants of Croatian extraction concerning the abduction of Dr. Krunoslav Draganovic.

The article went on to state that Draganovic, a Catholic priest and humanitarian, had mysteriously

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disappeared from Trieste, Italy on September 11, 1967, while enroute to Vienna. After two months the Yugoslav Government acknowledged that Dr. Draganovic was then in Yugoslavia. Many foreign newspapers in Austria, Germany and Switzerland reportedly suggested that Draganovic had been actually abducted by the Yugoslav police. Draganovic was said to have aided many Yugoslavs to escape from the country over a period of many years, thus earning for himself the animosity of the Yugoslav Government and press.

The official version of the Yugoslav State Administration concerning this affair was that Draganovic's return had been strictly voluntary on his part. The "Russian Life", mentioned above, disagreed with this view and urged its readers to work with their congressmen to secure his release from Yugoslavia. The readers were also urged to help establish an international committee which could visit Draganovic without the pressure of the secret police.

The "Croatian Voice", newspaper published in Winnipeg, Ontario, issue of December 9, 1967, page four, reported on the demonstration of November 18, 1967. It was said that following this demonstration, a committee was formed in the Croatian Home under the title "Freedom for Professor Draganovic." The president was listed as Dr. Vilko Majncl (William Meinzl). The secretary was listed as Ruza Bajurin and the advisor, Father Petar Topic, OFM. Representatives were listed from various Croatian organizations such as Ivo Vucicevic of the Croatian Radio Hour, San Francisco, and Nikola Chargin of the Croatian Radio Center, San Jose, California.

On February 6, 1968, the first source advised that the so-called Draganovic Committee was mostly a paper organization. No new demonstrations were planned.

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As of that date, the president was still William Meinzl and the secretary Ruza Bajurin. Meinzl was planning a trip to Cleveland to confer with other members of national groups about hiring a lawyer to continue the investigation of this case. Source stated that the committee could count on support from members of the Croatian organizations in the area in the event further actions were deemed necessary. He mentioned that the Croatian Home of San Francisco where Croats of many political views gathered, had recently elected Meinzl President for 1968. Zvonko Pribanich, an early founder of the committee, was re-elected Vice President.

The second source on February 1, 1968, also advised that the Draganovic Committee was then composed of Meinzl and Bajurin, sometimes assisted by Ivo Vucicevic. These persons had all been friends of Draganovic during their days in pre-war Croatia. It was felt by the organizers that only personal friends should be allowed on the committee although the other sympathetic Croats were ready to help.

Source was surprised that the Vatican and Cardinal Sefer formerly of Zagreb, had done nothing to assist Draganovic or to clear up the mystery. Source said that Draganovic was actually a Catholic priest who was on close terms with both Sefer and Archbishop of Sarajevo.

A third source who has furnished reliable information in the past, on February 2, 1968, stated that in his opinion, Draganovic had voluntarily returned to Yugoslavia, possibly relying on the new Concordat recently concluded by the Vatican and the Yugoslav Government.

Source did not know if Draganovic had actually ever been arrested. He had not seen any statements that the Roman Catholic Church had issued on this case and he felt that once again the issue

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may be the new Concordat which the church did not wish to upset by intervening in what the Yugoslav Government might consider an internal case.

Source did not know of any Croatians except those from what he described as the right-wing elements who were involved in the committee arranging the picketing.

A fourth source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised February 15, 1968, that he was a close friend of Mrs. Ruza Bajurin, Secretary of the committee. She told him that she regretted having become involved in the work as she was now of the belief that Draganovic had probably voluntarily returned to Yugoslavia. She said that she was going to give up her position on the committee.

Meinzl, another friend, was also ready to resign because the Croatian Home of San Francisco was not agreeable to paying expenses incurred by the committee.

Zvonko Pribanich, Vice President of the Home and one who had participated in the picketing, stated that the committee should be kept separate from the Home and the Home could not be asked to pay its bills. Although Meinzi is President of the Home, he was not able to carry his point, and the source thought he would probably resign from the committee, as a result.

This source expressed his belief that Draganovic had voluntarily returned to Yugoslavia and the demonstrations, therefore, were pointless.

The newly arrived Consul General of Yugoslavia, Ljubomir Ljubic, early in February, 1968,

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told the source that he did not care whether or not he believed him but the truth was that Draganovic and all his papers had voluntarily returned to Yugoslavia. He was being investigated by the police but due to many amnesties previously promulgated, he was free to come and go as he pleased. His papers, in fact, disproved many of the charges previously believed by the Yugoslav Government regarding the activities of Draganovic. The source, who is not a member of the committee although he is a long-time member of the Croatian Home, is a long-time acquaintance of the family of Ljubic. He felt that Ljubic would have no reason to tell him falsehoods regarding the Draganovic matter.

In view of the feeling of many Croats in the area to the effect that Draganovic had voluntarily returned to Yugoslavia, the source felt that the committee's actions in the future would be negligible.

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