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File No.

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

The Croatian Committee for the  
Protection of Human Rights, also known as  
Committee for the Rescue of Professor Draganovic

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, on March 25, 1968, advised he learned that on February 17 and 18, 1968, in Cleveland, Ohio, members of the "Committee for the Rescue of Professor Draganovic" (CRKD) held a conference. Members of various Croatian organizations, priests and sympathizers attended and discussed what has happened so far and what will be undertaken in the future regarding the "kidnapping" of Professor Krunoslav Draganovic, a Croatian catholic priest, by Yugoslav Government officials in September, 1967.

At the pre-conference, which was held on February 17, 1968, in the Hall of the Croatian Committee for Emigration in Cleveland, Ohio, or at the main conference, which was held on Sunday, February 18, 1968, at the Hotel Sheraton in Cleveland, the following participated as delegates of Croatian organizations:

Dr. Vilko Mainz of San Francisco, California,  
Rev. Dr. Dragutin Kamber of Toronto, Canada,  
Engineer Vinko Kuzina of New York, New York,  
Tomislav Mesic of Chicago, Illinois,  
Milan Mataija of Milwaukee, Wisconsin,  
Rudolf Eric of Akron, Ohio,  
Ante Pivac of Akron, Ohio

Those attending from Cleveland and its suburbs were:

Engineer Vladimir Bosiljevic,  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Tomislav Piris,  
Prof. Branko Jirka,  
Prof. Ivan Prcela,  
Dr. Jure Prpic,  
Janko Skrbic,  
Ivan Dzeta,  
Nikola Samija,  
Ivan Kusic,  
Veljko Masina,  
Nikola Kovacevic,

FOR COORDINATION WITH <sup>ed</sup> FBI

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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

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The Croatian Committee for the  
Protection of Human Rights, aka

Bozidar Abjanic,  
Ivan Franic,  
S. Crnicki

The conference was opened by Rudolf Eric, described by source as an extremist Croatian, who gave the reasons for holding the conference. The conference elected as president Dr. Vilko Meinzi, and for secretary, Engineer Vinko Kuzina of New York, New York.

The delegates from the Croatian organizations reported as to what was being done in their towns concerning the Draganovic incident. Special attention was given to a discussion concerning publicizing the incident to the press and the public.

The president of the Association of Croatian Priests in the United States (US) and Canada, Msgr. Dr. Tomislav Firis, explained that this association would give full moral support and cooperation. The editor of the association's magazine, Dr. D.Kamber, announced very soon what will be undertaken in connection with this.

Engineer V. Kuzina explained that the Croatian Academy of America of New York, is actively participating in all actions in connection with Prof. Draganovic. Msgr. Dr. T. Firis promised to have the "Catholic Service" and the "Knights of Columbus" become engaged in the assistance of the Croatian Priest, Draganovic.

Bozidar Abjanic reported about the discussions he had with US Senator Lausche of Ohio, concerning the Draganovic incident. Furthermore, Abjanic suggested that they request a tax exemption for every gift that is contributed to the fund for the defense of Prof. Draganovic.

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The Croatian Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, aka

The delegate from Chicago, Illinois, Tomislav Mesic, suggested that the name "Committee for the Rescue of Prof. Draganovic" be changed to "The Croatian Committee for the Protection of Human Rights" (CCPHR). This was immediately accepted by the Conference.

It was decided that steps would be undertaken soon to seek the aid of the Red Cross and the United Nations, and the Big Powers. They will also send to the Croatian people in Yugoslavia, brochures and leaflets. They will immediately inform the League for the Protection of Human Rights. They will soon start collecting money for the defense of Prof. Draganovic in the US and Canada, and all other continents where Croatian refugees live.

It was ascertained at the Conference that the CRKD exist in the following cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Pedro, California; Chicago, Cleveland and Toronto, Canada. Soon there will be committees in Akron, Ohio, St. Louis, Missouri, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and New York City.

The Main Committee of the CCPHR is located in Cleveland, Ohio, and committees in the other cities of the US and Canada will be formed by those delegates who were in Cleveland.

The following were elected to the Administration of CCPHR:

President	Eng. Vladimir Bosiljevic
Vice Presidents	Dr. Vilko Meinzl and Rudolf Eric
Secretaries	Bozidar Abjanic and Veljko Masina
Treasurer	Nikola Kovacevic
Chief of Documents	Rev. Dr. Dragutin Kamber
Chief of Information	Eng. Vinko Kuzina, Ante Pivac and Tomislav Mesic

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The Croatian Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, aka

The Supervisory Committee was comprised of Rev. Petar Topic, San Francisco, and Ivan Ivanovic of Los Angeles.

The members of the Supervisory Committee for Cleveland, New York and Chicago will be named shortly by their members. All presidents of local committees of the US and Canada automatically will assume places on the Administration as vice presidents.

On April 24, and May 1, 1968, a second confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, provided substantially the same information as set forth above.

The second source further explained that following the kidnapping of Draganovic, several "ad hoc" committees were formed in Trieste, Italy, and subsequently in the US, Canada and Germany. These groups were formed in order to raise money for the purpose of sending a lawyer, possibly from Austria, into Yugoslavia to defend Draganovic in the event the Yugoslav Government placed him on trial. So many of these committees sprang up it was decided to merge them into one group which could coordinate their activities. The meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 17, 18, 1968, was, therefore, held for this purpose and the CCPHR was formed.

The second source advised that the above committee was formed for the exclusive purpose of gaining financial, moral and legal support for Professor Draganovic from Croatian exiles and their friends throughout the world, and to develop information which will exonerate him from the charges made by the Yugoslav Government. Source added that the committee does not advocate nor recommend the use of any force or violence to advance its cause and, to his knowledge, there are no plans for any demonstrations against any Yugoslav Government diplomatic establishments in the US or elsewhere regarding the Draganovic matter. Source mentioned that because of the reaction by Croatian exiles throughout the world, it is possible the Yugoslav Government will never bring Draganovic to trial and may even release him.

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The Croatian Committee for the  
Protection of Human Rights, aka

The second source added that the Croatian Academy of America (CAA), a group of Croatian exile leaders in the New York City area, recently issued a memorandum of support for Professor Draganovic which expressed indignation over the action by the Yugoslav Government. No further action is planned by the CAA. Source advised Vinko Kuzina, Fort Lee, New Jersey, is the New York representative of the CCPHR.

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