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September 27, 1951
DATE

FROM ZAGREB, YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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REF None

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SUBJECT: Article from Croatian newspaper concerning release on bail of Andrija ARTUKOVIC.

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There is attached a translation of an article appearing in the Zagreb newspaper Narodni List of September 22, 1951, bitterly decrying the decision of the California court to release on bail Andrija ARTUKOVIC whose extradition from the United States to Yugoslavia is presently under consideration by the court.

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Similar articles have appeared in other Croatian newspapers.

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Charles P. McVicker, Jr.

Charles P. McVicker, Jr.,
American Consul.

Enclosure:

Translation of Narodni List
news article on release on
bail of Andrija Artukovic.

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CP McVicker Jr/REG
REPORTER'S

UNCLASSIFIED

TIME

September 27, 1951

Enclosure

(C O S Y)

SUMMARY

MARODNI LIST, Zagreb, September 22, 1951

In connection with the setting free of Artukovic -

As reported by foreign agencies one of the greatest war criminals of World War II, former collaborator of the hangman Pavelic, a man who was responsible for the death of over half a million people in Croatia, Andrija Artukovic, has been set free for the second time by American Court authorities on bail of \$50,000. The release of war criminal Artukovic was made on the demand of his lawyer O'Connor who deposited that large bail. This means that the American Court who decided on the demand of O'Connor accepted the interpretation of this attorney that Artukovic is a "political refugee", and that as such he can be released on bail pending the extradition hearing.

Although America is far from Yugoslavia we do not believe that the men who were deciding the question whether to accept Artukovic's attorney's demand or reject it did not know that Artukovic is no political refugee, but a notorious war criminal entered in the list of the international commission for war crimes in London. Likewise we do not believe that the American court which decided to release Artukovic did not know that a puppet fascist government of which Artukovic was a member ruled on one part of Yugoslav territory during the war, and which government among other things declared war on the United States.

Our people attach great importance to the Artukovic case. Nearly every second family in Croatia mourns some victim of his agents. Yugoslavia as a whole suffered tremendous losses in the past war: 1,700,000 men perished in the struggle against nazifascism, and our peoples cannot forget that a considerable number of the dead lost their lives thanks to the fascist regime of which Andrija Artukovic was a member. Therefore the news about the one time arrest of Artukovic was received by the Yugoslav peoples with joy, expecting that finally one of the most heinous miscreants guilty of sowing death and crimes in the territory of Yugoslavia during the last war would be brought to trial. Simultaneously, our public estimated this event as a symbol of the friendship of the American nation towards the peoples of Yugoslavia.

The greater was the disappointment and bitterness of our peoples and our entire public at the news of Artukovic's release from prison. Our peoples do not consider this as an attitude which agrees with the fundamental feeling of justice, since it means de facto an opportunity for this grave war criminal to escape. A question is raised how would the American people react if Yugoslavia should thus treat a criminal responsible for 500,000 American lives? Exactly in the same way as do our peoples at the news of the decision of the American Court authorities in connection with the release of Artukovic.