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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmEmbassy, BELGRADE

47  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 18, 1952  
DATE

REF : EmbDespatch 1063 of May 22, 1952

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SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRESS REACTION TO DENIAL OF ARTUKOVIC'S EXTRADITION

① Yugoslav press reaction to the decision of Federal Judge Pearson Hall in which he refused to extradite Andrija ARTUKOVIC has been unfavorable, as expected. POLITIKA of July 16 states that the news of this decision "will no doubt raise protests and deep discontent among our people". In addition to neglecting what POLITIKA calls "a moral obligation" to punish "a hangman and criminal", Judge Hall also is described as neglecting to implement the decisions regarding war criminals contained in the text of the Moscow and Teheran declarations. The explanation, according to POLITIKA, is that Judge Hall is attempting to aid a war criminal, as evidenced by his decreasing of Artukovic's bail from \$50,000 to \$5000.

POLITIKA of July 17 quotes an extract from a statement given to Radio Belgrade by Dr. Milan BARTOS, Chief Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which takes a somewhat more reasoned tone. According to Dr. Bartos, one "should not attack superfluous legal importance to this decision" even though it offends "the fundamental feeling of our peoples". However, Bartos adds, the judge has exceeded his competence in judging the validity of an international agreement, confirmed by the Department of State in 1951. The decision of Judge Hall, concludes Dr. Bartos, which can only be characterized as mildness towards a war criminal guilty of hundreds of deaths, will be reviewed by a higher court which will in all probability overrule him.

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Turner C. Cameron, Jr.  
Turner C. Cameron, Jr.  
First Secretary of Embassy

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