

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 105-3447
4 May 55

himself with such things but should enjoy his visit to Yugoslavia. Then RANKOVIC changed the subject and did not let MARKUL talk about TITO.

MARKUL went on to say that he knew RANKOVIC very well inasmuch as he had been in prison with him in Yugoslavia in 1927. MARKUL advised that he and RANKOVIC were both arrested in connection with trade union agitation and that he and RANKOVIC spent seven days in one room in a jail in Yugoslavia shortly after being arrested, and that he became well acquainted with RANKOVIC. He said RANKOVIC used to be a tailor but that he is now a very shrewd individual and in his opinion RANKOVIC actually has the most power of anyone in Yugoslavia. RANKOVIC did not ask him, he said, about America or Americans, but he did ask him about ANDREW ARTUKOVIC who is now residing in Los Angeles and whom the Yugoslav Government is attempting to extradite as an alleged war criminal. RANKOVIC told him he could not understand why the American Government permitted a man like ARTUKOVIC to stay in the United States, and MARKUL said he told RANKOVIC that in the United States everyone is entitled to a fair trial, which is not the case in Yugoslavia.

MARKUL advised that in his opinion the Yugoslav Government is secretly cooperating with the Soviet Union and that within four or five months this fact will be evident to everyone. He further stated that in his opinion the man representing himself as Marshal TITO is actually a Russian agent and is subservient to the USSR. MARKUL advised that he, himself, speaks Russian and that he lived in Russia for three years from 1930 to 1933, and he noticed many people in restaurants in Yugoslavia and in other public places who he believed were Russian agents in plain clothes. He further stated that it was clearly evident to him and to many other Yugoslavs that if the Soviet Union had wanted to dispose of the head of the Yugoslav Government, it could have done so very easily at any time. MARKUL advised that in 1930 he himself went to Russia thinking that the social conditions were good there, but that he was arrested there for not fulfilling his work quota and he spent most of his time there in Russian prisons. In 1933 he escaped from Russia by way of Siberia.

MARKUL said that (Dr.) ZIVKO TOPALOVICH, who lives at the following address, could verify his statements: I. Av. du XV, Corps Hyeres-Var, France. MARKUL said that Dr. TOPALOVICH knew the real TITO well because Dr. TOPALOVICH was on the Yugoslav Army staff many years ago and had conferences with him. Dr. TOPALOVICH, according to MARKUL, said that he believed the man who is representing himself as Marshal TITO is very likely a Russian general whose real name is (General) NIKOLAI LEBEDEV (ph.). Dr. TOPALOVICH reported to MARKUL he had met this Russian general on a number of occasions prior to 1937 and that

COORDINATED WITH

FILE IN []

CONFIDENTIAL