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SUBJECT: Artukovic Extradition Case

For your information, Yugopress Information Bulletin dated May 14 carried the following item under the heading "New Material on War Criminal Artukovic Submitted to Los Angeles Court."

"Dr. Albert Vajs, Senior Lecturer at the Belgrade Law Faculty, and Dragutin Desput, Public Prosecutor for Zagreb, have returned to Yugoslavia after a two-month visit to the United States. They went to the USA to prepare material for continuation of the extradition procedure against the one-time Minister of Internal Affairs in the former quisling Croatian Government of Pavelic, Andrija Artukovic, whose extradition the Yugoslav Government has been demanding since March, 1951.

"In conjunction with American lawyers who are representing the Yugoslav Government in this case, Dr. Vajs and Mr. Desput worked out a voluminous brief containing an answer to the arguments put forward by Artukovic's defense and submitted it to the Federal District Court in Los Angeles.

"Upon arriving in Belgrade, Dr. Vajs told a Yugopress correspondent that after the court procedure, which will probably last several months, is finished, a positive decision may be expected from the District Court.

"After that, extradition court authorities will consider the personal responsibility and extradition of the war criminal, Artukovic, whom the indictment, apart from other things, directly accuses of being to blame for the murder of 1,300 Yugoslav citizens during 1941 and 1942."

Joseph Pelakoff
Acting Public Affairs Officer

Copy to:
USIS Zagreb.

JPelakoff/am
REPORTER

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