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EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 23 APRIL 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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YUGOSLAVIA: DISSIDENT CRACKDOWN

THE ARREST ON FRIDAY OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND PROMINENT DISSIDENT MILOVAN DJILAS PROBABLY WAS MEANT TO STRENGTHEN THE CREDIBILITY OF REPEATED CALLS FOR SOCIAL DISCIPLINE. DJILAS, THE LAST SURVIVOR OF TITO'S INNER CIRCLE, WAS ARRESTED ALONG WITH 27 OTHER INTELLECTUALS WHO HAD MET TO DISCUSS YUGOSLAVIA'S NATIONALITY PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH DJILAS WAS AMONG THOSE RELEASED ON SATURDAY, 21 REPORTEDLY REMAIN IN DETENTION. PARTY LEADERS ARE PUBLICLY ATTACKING INCREASING CRITICISM FROM DISSIDENTS AND WARNING THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REGIONAL POLITICIANS MUST STOP OBSTRUCTING POLITICAL REFORM.

[REDACTED] SERB PRESIDENT LJUBICIC AND OTHER SERB CONSERVATIVES MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARRESTS. LJUBICIC, WHO BECOMES SERBIA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STATE PRESIDENCY NEXT MONTH, CULTIVATES SERB NATIONALIST SENTIMENT AND SUPPORTS INCREASED CENTRAL AUTHORITY. NEVERTHELESS, [REDACTED] TOP PARTY AND STATE OFFICIALS ALMOST CERTAINLY APPROVED OF THE CRACKDOWN. THEY ARE PREPARING FOR THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUMS THAT HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO BREAK THE POLITICAL LOGJAM CREATED BY THE DECENTRALIZED POLITICAL SYSTEM TITO BEQUEATHED.

[REDACTED]

23 APRIL 1984.