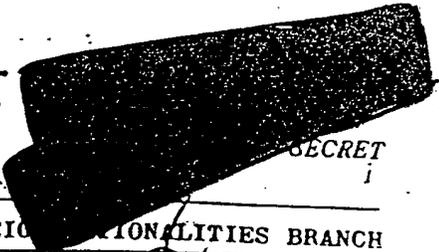


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FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH

Number 15

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April 13, 1942

FOREIGN POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Serb Anti-Croat Campaign

Prior to November, 1941, the only outward evidence of Serb-Croat disagreement in the United States emanated from some Croatian quarters. Anti-Serb and pro-Pavelich, Separatist propaganda was the work of the Croat National Council of Pittsburgh, which favored the creation of the Nazi puppet-state of Croatia. The nominal head of the Council, John D. Butkovich, is president of the Croat Fraternal Union; the actual leader of the Council, according to reports, was Dr. Dinko Tomashich, formerly a professor of sociology at Zagreb University and at that time visiting professor at Washington University in St. Louis. Another prominent member of the Council was Ivan Hreshich, editor and publisher of the New York papers, *Hrvatski List* and *Danica Hrvatska*. Pavelich supporters were also grouped around the Pittsburgh *Nezavisna Hrvatska Drzava*, a weekly which ceased publication shortly after the United States entered the war. It is important to note that by no means all of the Croats in this country are followers of Pavelich; according to some observers, the majority of American Croats still acknowledge the leadership of Dr. Vladimir Machek, who, because of his refusal to have any dealings with the puppet-state of Croatia, was interned by the Germans.

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MAY 13 1942

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Enclosure (6)

Early in November, the ~~American~~ *Srbobran* initiated the anti-Croat campaign which continues today. ~~The~~ *Srbobran*, the most influential Serb-language daily in the United States, is the official organ of the Serb National Federation, a fraternal benefit society with headquarters in Pittsburgh. In the past it had invariably supported every Yugoslav Government currently in power and had upheld the unity of the Serb, Croat, and Slovene peoples in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Thus, for instance, the *Srbobran* defended the Cvetkovich-Machek Government which signed the Hitler-imposed Tripartite Pact; later it welcomed with equal enthusiasm the Simovich coup d'etat which overthrew the Cvetkovich-Machek Government.

The shift in the *Srbobran's* policy coincided with the arrival in this country of ~~Yovan Duchich~~, former Yugoslav Minister to Bucharest and Madrid, who is reported to be a friend of General Franco. Duchich is the chief strategist of a group called the Serb National Defense Council, organized in South Chicago on November 12, 1941. The president of the Council is his brother, Milan Duchich, a dairy owner in Gary, Indiana, and its financial backer is Mile Radakovich, reported to have been a boot-legger during prohibition. Some years ago the Yugoslav Minister to the United States, Mr. Fotich, conferred on Radakovich the order of St. Sava "for cultural work"; Mr. Fotich is said to have visited him at his home in Joliet, Illinois, last March. The ultimate objective of the Serb National Defense Council is the creation of a "Greater Serbia" rather than the reconstruction of a united Yugoslavia.

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COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION

FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH

The *Srbobran's* anti-Croat campaign began with the disclosure of an alleged message of endorsement which Dr. Yuddy Krnyevich, Machek's personal representative in the Yugoslav Government-in-Exile in London, was accused of sending to the pro-Pavelich Croat National Council. The *Srbobran* attacked the Croat National Council as the representative of all the American Croats and as the voice of the Croats in the Mother Country.

Later the *Srbobran* extended its campaign to an attack on Dr. Ivan Subasich, Governor of Croatia, who had come to this country as head of the Yugoslav Mission to the United States. It accused him of sharing the known Serbophobe sentiments of his American secretary, the Separatist Professor Tomashich referred to above, and continued to attack him even after Tomashich had been dismissed and Subasich had on various public occasions spoken unreservedly for Yugoslav unity both here and abroad.

It was the *Srbobran's* issue of November 4 which revealed most clearly that the paper thenceforth would oppose the reconstruction of a united Yugoslav state consisting of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and that it advocated instead the creation of a "Greater Serbia" under the slogan of "One People, One State, One King." On a black-bordered first page, it published a detailed account of the suppression of the Serbs by Pavelich and accused the Croat people as a whole of sympathizing with his Separatist puppet-state. In reply, American Croats indignantly pointed out that the Croat followers of Dr. Machek had endured similar treatment and asked why the *Srbobran* omitted criticism of the Serbian Marshal ~~Kedich~~ who was doing Hitler's work in Serbia as efficiently as the Croat Pavelich did it in Croatia.

The most conspicuous effort so far to combat the "Greater Serbia" movement started by the *Srbobran* and to re-establish Yugoslav unity has been a mass rally held in New York City on March 29. About 700 persons attended this meeting, which was sponsored by the Union of Yugoslav Americans, a group recently organized on non-political lines by the Croat and Serbian departments of the International Workers Order. (The Union of Yugoslav Americans is one of similar groups formed by the I.W.O. after June 22, 1941, to keep national groups in this country unitedly behind the prosecution of the war.) At the March 29 rally, the platform was decorated with pictures of President Roosevelt and General Mihajlovich; King Peter's picture was omitted, it is reported, in deference to the republican sentiments of American Yugoslavs. The meeting opened with the "Star-Spangled Banner," but the Yugoslav hymn was not sung; instead, the Pan-Slav hymn, "Ge Slovyane," was substituted.

The major speakers were three members of the Yugoslav Cabinet, now with the Yugoslav Mission to the United States: Ivan Subasich, Savo Kosanovich, and Frano Snof. Subasich and Snof stressed the importance of maintaining Yugoslav unity, and urged their listeners to do everything possible in this country to aid General Mihajlovich and his guerrilla army. It is reported that the mention of President Roosevelt's name produced more applause than the references to America itself; references to England produced only a mild reaction, but every mention of Russia started a wild acclaim.

Kosanovich attacked the "Greater Serbia" campaign of the *Srbobran*

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COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION

FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH

and said that the Serbs should accept the greatest share of the responsibility of rebuilding a united Yugoslavia. He declared that the future of all mankind, not merely the future of Yugoslavs, was involved in the war, and emphasized that General Mihajlovich was fighting, not for a "Greater Serbia," as both the Serb and Croat extremists maintained, but for a united Yugoslavia. His speech received a tremendous ovation.

The success of this unity meeting may be taken as evidence that the *Srbobran's* views do not represent those of all Serb-Americans. Indeed, the Supreme Board of the Serb National Federation, whose organ the *Srbobran* is, did not consult its members before shifting the paper's policy to its present anti-Croat direction. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that heretofore Minister Fotich and the Yugoslav Government-in-Exile have apparently ignored the anti-Croat campaign, so that in some quarters it is believed that Mr. Fotich approves since he has not severed his informal connections with Yovan Duchich and his extremist Serb group. The Yugoslav Government-in-Exile, it is reported, is still paying Yovan Duchich's salary, since he is here on sick leave, and Archbishop Dionisije, head of the Serbian Church, who also is at present in the "Greater Serbia" camp, still receives his regular government subsidy. It is argued that if the Yugoslav Government actively sought to promote and maintain harmony between American Serbs and Croats, much of the current extremist controversy could be eliminated.

The following is a list of prominent Croat and Serb leaders who could be influential in effecting a reconciliation of the two groups:

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*For the Croats:*

- (1) Dr. Ivan ~~Subasich~~, 277 Park Avenue, New York City.
- (2) Don ~~Niko Grskovich~~, 7510 - 113th Place, Forest Hills, Long Island.
- (3) ~~William M. Boyd-Boich~~, 18119 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio.
- (4) ~~Franz Petrino~~vich, 956 Fifth Avenue, New York City. ✓
- (5) ~~Bozo Banac~~, 11 Broadway, New York City.

*For the Serbs:*

- (1) ~~Savo Kosanovich~~, 112 Central Park South, New York City.
- (2) ~~Stoyan Pribichevich~~, Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Centre, New York City.
- (3) ~~Vaso Trivanovitch~~, Hotel New Weston, New York City. —
- (4) Dr. ~~Bozidar Markovich~~, Yugoslav Minister of State.
- (5) Dr. ~~Paul Radosavljevich~~, Columbia University, New York City.
- (6) ~~Nikola Tesla~~, Hotel New Yorker, New York City.

~~Louis Adamich~~, a Slovene-American, has enormous prestige among all branches of Yugoslav-Americans.

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