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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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ORIGIN/ACTION

RM/R	REP	AP
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	2	5
L	PO	AID
3	1	
ARM	5/2	54
2	1	1
AGR	COM	FRB
	3	
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	20	5
OSO	UFA	NSA
34	10	3
FBI		MC
1		6

A-82
NO.

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Pol 15-7 Yugo
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Belgrade, Rome

FROM : AmConsul Zagreb

DATE: December 27, 1967

SUBJECT : Draganovic Attacked in Magazine of State-Supported Association of Catholic Priests

REF : Zagreb's 200

Dr. Krunoslav DRAGANOVIC, a Croatian priest active in Church-regime affairs during the Pavelic era in Croatia (1941-1944), recently turned up in Sarajevo after more than 24 years of self-imposed exile, explaining his voluntary return to Yugoslavia in a lengthy letter to Sarajevo justice authorities. The text of his letter was later published in the press and has given rise to caustic comment in party ranks concerning the authorities' handling of the Draganovic case. Draganovic, while awaiting action on his amnesty request in connection with his investigation concerning war crimes, appeared unannounced in Zagreb in November and in a sequel thereto a picture of Draganovic in front of Freedom Bridge in Zagreb was published in a Zagreb evening daily. Draganovic's travels about Yugoslavia have not unexpectedly caused the Croatian top party leadership to disclaim publicly any part in the decision allowing Draganovic freedom of movement and to comment caustically that until court action has been completed Draganovic's movements around Yugoslavia were "politically harmful and provoking justified revulsion" (Zagreb's 200). Thus, the initial handling of the Draganovic case by Yugoslav federal authorities has seemingly not produced the desired propaganda coup; in addition, the Croatian Catholic Church has maintained a studious silence while the Croatian Communist Party has disavowed any responsibility for the case.

This state of affairs, particularly the refusal of the Church to become involved, has apparently prompted a change in regime tactics directed at attempting to force some comment from Church sources. This would appear to be one of the motives behind publication of an article in a recent issue of the Catholic magazine Danica, denouncing Draganovic for his words

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(a)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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In Out

FORM DS-323
4-62

Drafted by:

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of charity and brotherhood at a belated date after having lived abroad for more than 24 years as a "political chauvinist and extremist in emigration."

To give broader public coverage to the Danica attack on Draganovic, Politika of December 21 published excerpts from the article. The Danica article was probably politically inspired, if not written by regime authorities since Danica is the publication of the Association of Catholic Priests, a state-organized and supported association ostensibly set up to provide social services for priests, but in fact set up to weaken the hierarchy's control over priests and to give the regime a political forum among the lower clergy. A second objective of the article with its reference to forced conversions and killings of Orthodox believers during World War II would seem to be to keep alive the former age-old enmity between Catholics and Orthodox in Yugoslavia and thereby to thwart efforts directed toward promoting ^{an} ecumenical spirit among believers.

Sources in Cardinal Seper's office in Zagreb, when asked to comment on the Draganovic case, have indicated an ostensible disinterest in the matter by stating that Draganovic is a private citizen; his return to Yugoslavia was a political, not religious act; and that he remains as far as the Yugoslav Catholic Church is concerned under the spiritual supervision of Church authorities outside Yugoslavia. In short, the Church leadership plans to continue its position of public silence on the case, notwithstanding efforts of regime authorities to the contrary.


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