

276697

American Consulate,
Zagreb, Yugoslavia
January 12, 1949

No. 4

State

RESTRICTED

Subject: Clandestine Publications in Slovenia

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

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Sir:

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I have the honor to attach hereto a translation of an article which appeared on December 29, 1948, in the Slovenski Porocevalec of Ljubljana, reporting the trial of five persons sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment for the distribution of clandestine literature and for having contact with "spy centers".

Nothing is known of the publications Latjezev Glas (Mathew's Voice) or Democratija. It will be noted that another attempt has been made to implicate the Church in Slovenia by the avowed statement of Anica Lukman that responsibility for her having engaged in such activities could only be placed "on the influence of the clergy".

The relative lightness of the sentences probably is indicative of the true activities of the accused. In my mind there does not appear any question that they had actually received the anti-regime publications, but I assume they were the incidentals to obtaining information regarding families and friends of escaped relatives or neighbors. If they had actually engaged in espionage, past experiences indicate they would have been summarily shot.

There is reported to be relatively easy communications between Trieste and Slovenia, as well as between Austria and Slovenia, as is customary near European frontiers. While border guards are numerous, many persons clandestinely cross the frontier in apparent safety. The Italian Consul General confidentially states that the current fee for being guided to Trieste is Lirars 15,000, which includes evading Free Territory of Trieste officials as well as Yugoslavs, and safe delivery in the Piazza dell'Unita.

Enclosure:
1 translation

Respectfully,

File no. 350
CGilbert:rwp
Original and photo master to Dept.
cc: American Embassy, Belgrade

Charles Gilbert,
American Consul

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FOR COORDINATION WITH State

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

TERMINATION

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accused because of the distribution of illegal pamphlets

A trial took place before the regional law court of Ljubljana on December 24th, against the distributors of illegal and hostile literature who had also spread alarming news and slanders. They were the following:

(X) Marija HABJAN - Former owner of a restaurant
 Anica LUKMAN - Messenger
 Terezija CERNIC - Former tradeswoman
 Linka MUCIC - Former owner of a factory
 Vrane MUCIC - Former major of the old Yugoslav Royal Army.

The trial clearly showed how the exploiting class continues with its anti-people's policy, and how it is hired by various foreign spy organizations. The real face of the class enemies has been again unmasked.

Marija Habjan, former owner of a restaurant and relative of the war-criminal Andrija Glusic, the latter being the organizer and leader of the spy center 101 in Austria, held illegal contact with him through illegal messengers from Austria. They all came to her home where they left and received mail for various people. From one of those couriers, Marija Habjan received the Latjuzev Glas (Father's Voice) for distribution.

Anica Lukman spread the most alarming news and slanders as well as the Latjuzev Glas. She tried to excuse her deeds by throwing the responsibility on the influence of the clergy among which she lived and to the education she had received (from them). Yet the trial showed that she had helped two of Mihajlovic's fellow-workers to escape in the summer of 1945.

Terezija Cernic had already been accused during the liberation war of supporting Belcic, Mihajlovic's collaborator in Slovenia, who had been at the same time a spy and agent of the Gestapo and other imperialist powers. She worked against the People's Liberation Movement. After the liberation she had contacts with the escaped collaborators of Mihajlovic and those who remained in Slovenia. She received illegal couriers who

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brought letters from Marilja Hafner, former restaurant owner in Skofja Loka, who has been seen in Trieste with foreign spies. At the same time, she had been, together with Linka Tulacek, spreading alarming news and they had been distributing the hostile papers Matjazev Glas and Democrat.

Linka Tulacek and Franc Tulacek had been spreading hostile propaganda as well as slanders against the People's authority and its leadership. They drew their information from illegal and hostile literature which they received from abroad. Franc Tulacek had received 10 copies of the Democrat with instructions to distribute them.

Taking into consideration the contrite avowal of the accused, the court passed the following sentences:

Marilja Habjan - 5 years and 6 months of imprisonment, loss of all political and civic rights and confiscation of the entire property.

Anica Lukman - 5 years imprisonment, and 1 year loss of political rights.

Terzija Cesnover - 5 years imprisonment and 2 years loss of civic rights and confiscation of property.

Linka Tulacek - 5 years and 6 months imprisonment, 2 years loss of civic rights and confiscation of property.

Franc Tulacek - 4 years imprisonment, 1 year loss of political rights and confiscation of property.

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