Sanitized Co	opy Approve	d for Release	2011/10/19 :	CIA-RDP80-008	U9A000600390403-
--------------	-------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	------------------

	RESTRICTED						
	CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED						
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS	REPORT 5 CD NO.					
	FOREIGIN DOCUMENTO OTTAM						
COUNTRY	Yugoslavia	DATE OF INFORMATION 1952					
SUBJECT	Polítical - Optants						
		DATE DIST. / 8 May 1951					
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper						
WHERE PUBLISHED	Trieste	NO. OF PAGES					
DATE PUBLISHED	17, 22 Feb 1951	SUPPLEMENT TO					
LANGUAGE	Italian	REPORT NO.					
THUS DOCUMENT CONT	UNS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE						

INTS DUCUNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPICIAGE ACT B OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANINGSION OF ESPICIALE U.S. C., SI AND SIAS AS MEANINGED. ITS (ANSIMISSIOSON OF THE REVEATOR OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UMAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROMINITED. THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1

STAT

SOURCE Mer

Messaggero Veneto.

REPORT YUGOSLAV MISTREATMENT OF ITALIAN OPTANTS

REPORT EXTORTION FROM ISTRIAN OPTANTS -- Trieste, Messaggero Veneto, 17 Feb 51

Word has been received of serious abuses committed by the Yugoslav authorities against departing Istrian optants. These optants had exercised their right /to choose repatriation to Italy/ as far back as 1948, and have just been able to obtain citizenship papers and leave for Italy.

All the optants, to obtain the Ministry of the Interior's visa of departure on their consular passports, must show a certificate attesting that they have paid their taxes and made payments for all public services from which they have benefited. This certificate is then released by the committee in whose jurisdiction the optant resides, and serves to attest that the departing Italian has no further debts to the State.

In Paracin some optants, after getting this attestation, were required to pay money for a certificate of settlement of taxes, which were increased retroacttively. A typical case is that of Natale Paoletti, who had paid the sum of 15,000-16,000 dinars in taxes on his few hectares of land for the whole of 1950. Before he could depart, a district official informed him that, on the basis of a new assessment, his income was 298,000 dinars, for which he was to be taxed 152,000 dinars, or over 50 percent. Paoletti reconciled himself to paying the money, which he had; however, this money was not income from his land, but came from the sale of most of his personal property. Otherwise, as he was informed by the Yugoslavs, his visa of departure would have been revoked, and he might have been obliged to stay in Paracin indefinitely.

Paoletti still has a certificate of tax payment dated prior to his payment of the 152,000 dinars. The payment was credited to an ordinary current account; hence, it is not clear to what kind of tax the payment applies.

Not only the optants in Paracin but the peasants in general have been subject to this levy. Often they receive new tax notices, without ever learning the reason for them. In Yugoslavia, taxation is not imposed by means of a calculation which is based on technical criteria and is clear in meaning, but rather on political bungling and on the requirements of separate agencies.

1 -

RESTRICTED

CLASSIFICATION					SSIFICATIO	DN	RESTRICTED	
STATE	X	NAVY		X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION	
ARMY	٢X	AIR		X	F91		<u>l </u>	

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/10/19 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600390403-1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/10/19 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600390403-1

4

_

STAT

RESTRICTED

Other serious abuses were committed recently in Labin, all at the expense of the optants. Money that departing optants had turned over to the Yugoslav People's Bank, in accordance with the Italo-Yugoslav agreements of August 1948, we; arbitrarily held back. The withholding rate increased with the size of the deposit. One optant who had 200,000 dinars was obliged to turn over 96,000 to the district finance section, whereas for others, who turned over smaller sums, the withholding amount came to between 10 and 20 percent. The withholding rate is supposed to be one per 1,000.

OPTANT BEATEN -- Trieste, Messaggero Vemeto, 22 Feb 51

٢

Word was received yesterday of an assault on Vittorio Tonelli, an Istrian farmer who had hoped to return to Italy. A few hours after having been threatened by the People's Committee with 6 months of forced labor in the Arsia mine if he did not change his position, while returning home, he was assaulted by three masked men. They beat him mercilessly, threatened him with death, and accused him of being a propagandist against the Reople's authority and of having exercised the right of option. The man was seriously wounded. He will be required to leave for "voluntary labor" on the Lupoglav-Stalje railroad line.

- E N D -

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/10/19 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600390403-1