

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

SUBJECT **Nationalities Problem**

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Yugoslav Government has had substantial success in eliminating Serb-Croat rivalry on both sides. The regime is severely opposed to all excessive national feelings and an expression against any one nationality is quickly punished and repressed. However, in the economic sphere on the republic level, resentment is often felt because of the favorable treatment the Federal Government has shown toward the Republics of Slovenia and Bosnia. This, however, may be ascribed to a competitive spirit among the leaders of the republics rather than to any nationality feelings. Each republic naturally wants to secure as much financial support from the Federal Government as possible, and thus a feeling of jealousy and rivalry occurs when another republic has more success in this respect. This is not necessarily indicative of nationality antagonism.
2. The success achieved by the Yugoslav Government in dealing with the nationality problem will probably outlive the present regime. Under the present system, any government candidate, regardless of nationality, will win both Party and non-Party support. Nevertheless, the Government does see to it that where ever possible the candidate has as much in common with the local national character as possible. Tito, however, would be elected anywhere in Yugoslavia

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without competition. As regards other candidates to public offices, their success depends upon Party backing, which is always afforded. If the Party did not interfere, the Montenegrins would, if ~~that~~ were not running, be more likely to elect a Montenegrin rather than a man of different nationality to the Presidency. Likewise, the Slovenes would be more likely to support a Slovene rather than a Croat or Serb, et cetera. The Party machinery, however is the determining factor. The population of Serbia does not resent Kardelj because he is a Slovene, nor do they resent Tito because he is a Croat. At the top level there is definitely no problem regarding nationalities; at the middle level the problem is better specified in terms of geography and economics; and the lower level shows practically no interest in the nationality problem.

3. Among the various republics, Serbia is the most difficult for the regime to control because of events which happened during the war. Bosnia-Herzegovina is the easiest to handle because increased industrialization has created more jobs and has raised the standard of living, thereby reducing much of the pre-war misery in this republic. Montenegro must still fall under strict control because here Communism is identified with Russia, while Slovenia and Croatia still need and receive a moderate amount of control because of the trouble the regime has had with the Catholic Church. More federal control is not needed in Macedonia because, now that this republic has obtained its independence from Serbia and has been given its own language, much of its pride has been assuaged. However, it should be noted that among the top Communist leaders, Lazar Kolarik, Macedonia has the least voice in the affairs of the country.

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Comment: Your attention is called [ ] which expresses an opposing view of the nationalities problem in Yugoslavia.

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