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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Italy

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Yugoslav Plans for the Free State
Council of Trieste

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PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. Informal approaches are being made from the Yugoslav side to reach an accord with leaders of the Italian left wing in selecting candidates to be nominated as members of the proposed Free State Council of Trieste. The present plan, which is understood to have the approval of the Yugoslavs, views the Free State Council of ten members as being composed of three Yugoslavs and seven Italians. If an accord is reached with the Italian Communist members a controlling majority would be represented by the three Yugoslav members and three Italian members voting as a Communist bloc.

2. The first contact in connection with this proposed plan was made by an unofficial Slovene political representative, Dr. Ivan Maria Chok, who arrived in Rome 31 January 1947 to discuss the plan with leaders of the Italian left-wing political parties. Whether Chok was successful in reaching an agreement with the Italians is unknown at the present time. However, it is reported that in addition to himself he proposed the following as the other two Yugoslav candidates: Dr. Engelbert Besednjak and Dr. Lavo Chernelj. After obtaining Italian concurrence Chok plans to go to [REDACTED]

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3. Dr. Ivan Chok took part in the 1945 Yugoslav Delegation acting on the question of the Italo-Yugoslav frontiers. He recently visited Belgrade and has been a house guest of Boris Kidrich, Yugoslav Minister of Industry. At present he is living in Trieste where he has been unsuccessfully attempting to organize a "Zone A" Slovene political party. Although strongly compromised because of his activities with the Yugoslav Communists, he deploras the methods used to carry out their program in the Venezia Giulia. He still maintains relations with proud anti-Tito elements.

4. Dr. Engelbert Besednjak is a native of the Venezia Giulia and one time member of the Italian Parliament representing the Slovenes. He, like many other Slovene political personalities, is sympathetic with the Tito regime because of its stand on the Italo-Yugoslav frontier, but not an ideological follower.

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5. Lavo Chernalj is a native of Trieste who later moved to Ljubljana. He was a professor at the University in Ljubljana and has written several anti-Italian books espousing the rights of the Yugoslav minority in the Venezia Giulia. Since the end of the war he has been working as an expert on this area for the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is an intimate friend of Ivan Chok.

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