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SOURCE

1. On or about 24 August 1950, an unidentified Yugoslav Government official from Zagreb entered Trieste from Zone B with a large but unspecified number of Italian 1,000-lire notes to be exchanged for dollars and dinars. Allegedly, the lire notes originated in the National Bank of Yugoslavia and were illegally transported across the zone border in a pick-up truck.
2. The local money changers involved included Giuseppe Urbani, who exchanged 20,000 dollars; and Mario Semprevivo, who exchanged an unspecified amount of dinars at an alleged rate of 0.80 lire per dinar. A certain Finzi assisted the Yugoslav official in the deal.
3. In total, the unidentified Yugoslav Government official received approximately 60,000 dollars and 10,000,000 dinars in cash and credit from the local banks for the lire notes. No dinars were available on the Trieste Exchange after the completion of this transaction.

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Recently prevalent in Italian circles in Trieste were rumors regarding the possible devaluation of the dinar or its replacement by lire. This may possibly be a Yugoslav attempt to clear the Trieste Exchange of dinars at a favorable rate prior to the announcement of the replacement of dinars by lire, or it may be indicative of a government shortage of dinars.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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