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SUBJECT Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the National Republic of Montenegro

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1. The organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the National Republic of Montenegro is as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Minister	Komnen Cerovic	
Assistant Minister	Jaska Novakovic	From Titograd, formerly a teacher in charge of general affairs.
Assistant Minister for Operations	Kuljaca	
Third Minister	Sava Vujacic	In charge of draining Lake Skadar.
General Director	Dusan Vuckovic	Chief of general forest surveys. In charge of exploitation and protection of wooded areas.
Chief of Reforestation	Engineer Dimitrije Bojic	Reforestation section, care of forests and regulation of floods.
Chief of Care for Forests	Engineer Vladimir Ljevin	

2. Until the beginning of 1950, the Ministry contained a control division which was headed by Assistant Minister Luka Zaruvice as President. In 1950 this section was eliminated as were other control commissions in other industries, and now only one control commission attached to the government of Montenegro exists. The commission, in addition to other sections, has a section for forestry, headed by Milorad Djurkovic, a forestry engineer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has under its jurisdiction the following five Forest Managements:

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1. Forest Management: Niksic; Director: Petar Mijuskovic; Assistant Director: Petar Cakic, engineer of forestry.
2. Forest Management: Plevlje; Director: Radovan Jakic; Assistant Director: Asjko Preljevic, engineer of forestry.
3. Forest Management: Kolasin; Director: Bakija Sobajic, engineer of forestry.
4. Forest Management: Berane (Ivangrad); Director: Obrad Zarubica, engineer of forestry; Assistant Director: Petar Otasevic.
5. Forest Management: Kotor; Director: Grigorije, engineer; Assistant Director: Radimir Neven, engineer of forestry.

Each of the above managements has from 5 to 6 employees at the most, and from 10 to 15 lumbermen. The majority of lumbermen are party members, and only from 2 to 3 per cent are non-party members.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister who heads it do not determine, and are not in charge of, forestry policy. They also have little to do with making important decisions. The person within the Ministry in charge of forestry policy is Dusan Vuckovic, but he lacks ability and interest for this type of work. His entire job is one of blind submission, and he has only to carry out orders and directives, formerly issued by the Planning Commission, and now issued by the Industrial Council for the National Republic of Montenegro. This does not mean that the latter two bodies are independent of the Ministry of the Montenegrin Republic in the field of forestry. The Republic Planning Commission, formerly, and now the Industrial Council are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Planning Commission from which they receive orders and directives covering work in the forestry field. Thus, the Central (Federal) Government is in charge of forestry policy of Montenegro.
4. At the same time, the Federal Commission gives instructions and sets up production plans for the Ministry of Industry which is, likewise, in charge of the Wood Industry. For this, approval or agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is not required. Accordingly, the work of the Ministry of Forestry, or, more precisely, the Ministry of Agriculture consists mainly in reforestation. There is cause to fear that under such grandiose plans and such criminal exploitation, Montenegro will within five years be reduced to nothing. Policies regarding forestry for Montenegro and for the other republics, are mainly formulated along the lines of thought of Boris Kidric, who, in one of his statements made before Yugoslav forest specialists, said:

"If the socialist management demands, that is to say, if policy so demands, we shall cut down all the trees and again reforest the land."

This statement made by Kidric is being successfully adapted everywhere in forest economy. With the above attitude, there will be no more forests at the end of the first five years. An answer, made by a prominent forestry specialist of Montenegro, to Kidric's statement was as follows:

"The political management of a country is better informed than any specialist."

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5. The work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry thus consists mainly of reforestation projects. The Five Year Plan provides for the reforestation of 2,500 hectares of barren Montenegrin land. The plan was changed in 1950 and the number of hectares for reforestation raised to 3,500. Considering the reforestation of barren land would mainly cover the rocky (Karst) areas, it is impossible to consider that even the initial plan of 2,500 hectares can be carried out since neither manpower nor necessary tools are available. The example of the mountain reforestation project to Trebjest, near Niksic, is the best proof of the type of results that can be achieved. During the occupation, the citizens of Niksic, then under Partisan control, stripped the forests of Trebjesa down to the roots. Reforestation of this area was already begun in 1946. The Trebjesa (wood) area covers approximately 200 hectares. The plan provides for the annual reforestation of from 50 to 60 hectares. Each year reports state the plan has not only been carried out, but even exceeded. But after four years of constant reforestation of the Trebjesa area, 80 hectares are still void of trees. Thus, according to official reports, the project of reforestation has been carried on from 1946 to 1950 each year, and each time 50 hectares have been covered with trees. This would mean that Trebjesa has 250 hectares. But it actually only has 200, 120 hectares of which have been reforested.
6. Nevertheless, plans have been surpassed and graphs have been drawn. False reports are submitted, and articles written up in the newspaper. A forester who can hardly write submits a written report to the director of the management based on a visual survey of the area reforested in one day. These daily reports are summed up in 10-day reports and from these monthly reports are made. The reports are then forwarded to the Planning Commission and from here to the Control Commission if the plan has not been exceeded. If the plan has been exceeded then everything is in order, and the reports are sent to the Federal Planning Commission. Nobody ever checks to verify the reports. For this reason any manager who wishes to advance in his position or to be rewarded exceeds the plan by means of falsified and incorrect documents. If ever any check is made, it is made by people who are not specialists. The commission is only interested in having protocol and bookkeeping in order, and never actually checks the figures in the books.
7. The greatest actual amount of reforestation is being done in the vicinity of Titograd. However, considering the climate (draught), and the hardness of the soil (conglomerate) the success of the project, and of newly planted trees which do not die amounts to from 10 to 15 per cent at the most. The percentage in the area of Cemovsko Polje and other parts of Velje Brdo is from 25 to 30 per cent.
8. The number of permanent workers engaged in reforestation is very small, and, in each forest management, amounts to between 10 to 20 men at the most. Each management has at least two specialists. The main, if not the entire, job falls on the Front labor brigade. Convicts and prisoners are temporarily employed in the vicinity of Titograd. The Front Labor brigades are headed by brigadiers who submit a report to the specialist with a statement as to how many new trees have been planted. Usually these reports are incorrect, and exaggerate the amounts, but experts can do nothing but accept them. The Front brigades promise to plant a certain number of trees, and although this might have been done only on paper, it must be accepted, or the specialist is in danger of being marked as an enemy of the country and of the regime. The Front brigades have municipal and district units. The success of their work is nil since the people engaged in this work are employed at their private jobs during the week and then are forced to work 8 to 11 hours on such reforestation projects. Such a citizen works without any interest; his only aim is that he be noticed by some of the unit managers. Frequently specialists find the brigade planting trees upside down with the branches planted in the earth (sic). While young trees are being transported, very little attention is paid to their care, and the plant root is often damaged. The hole in which the tree is planted is often very shallow, and is not more than 10 centimeters deep. (For this at least 30 centimeters of depth are required.)

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9. Front workers who participate in the planting project often number 600 men. They are frequently assisted by the military and by school children. There is often a lack of tools, and there can hardly be a question of giving them professional advice. Specialized personnel, who may supervise and manage the work of reforestation also are lacking. District and municipal committees determine the amount of manpower to be sent out on these projects without taking into consideration the above circumstances. The main thing is that the specialist chosen has the necessary qualifications, but whether he can manage and control the number of people employed is of secondary importance.
10. The forest nurseries, which exist in almost every forest management, are the only actual and positive contribution to reforestation. Such nurseries are located in Niksic, Titograd, Bar, Kotor, Berane, Kolasin and Plevlje. Here the greatest attention is devoted to the cultivation of new shoots. Total annual production of new shoots in all nurseries amounts to 5 million units. Shoots are largely almond and fir (black and Alpine). The majority of nurseries were built before the war and some have been enlarged, such as the ones in Niksic, Titograd, Kotor and Bar. The Ministry and forest managements devote a lot of attention to the shoots, so that any failure in reforestation should not be attributed to insufficient quantities. The forest nurseries are very well cultivated and managed by specialists.
11. The question of introducing order in the forests of Montenegro was taken up only in the latter part of 1947, upon strict orders issued by the Federal Ministry. Up to that time, lumber camps and local committees cut down forests without orders and often without the knowledge of the forest managers. The main thing was to receive the assignment either from the Planning Commission or directly from the District Party organization and the men would go out and cut the trees which suited them most, often those alongside the roads. Since the Five Year Plan demanded that an inventory be taken over a period of two years (visual survey) of all existing forests, the inventory was completed in Montenegro in 1949. The entire area covered with forests amounted to 489,000 hectares. This total can be expressed in terms of 58,680,000 meters. From this 12,604,000 meters are of fir trees and 46,076,000 meters of deciduous trees (including brushwood). Since beech is largely of a very poor quality only from 3 to 15 per cent of these trees can be actually used. Since evergreen forests or mixed forests have been largely utilized before the war, such as the Bjela Gora, the Somina, Vojnik, Pivske Forests, Saranske Forests Brajkovaca, Karljeva Mountain, Sekulari, Vucje, Orni Vrh, Vaskovske Forests, Ravna Gora and Kunjevica, the amount of evergreens which could be cut down after the war amounted to 25 per cent. After the departure of the Germans only from 3 to 5 per cent evergreens remained in the mixed forest areas. Before the war, the amount that could be cut reached as high as 70 per cent, and was justifiable because these forests were very old and had almost become jungles. Fir trees had overgrown the beech trees to such an extent that beech trees could no longer carry out their natural task, (to clear or cut the branches of the evergreens, and thus increase the value of the evergreens). However, further cutting of the evergreens in the same forests after the "liberation", and the reduction of their numbers to 5 per cent means that these forests will be reduced into deciduous forests, that is, into beech forests, which have no value.
12. Not only is management of this kind conducted in these forests, but also in forests opened for utilization after the war. Such an example is the wood area, Ljubastica, beneath the Kosovi Mountains. During a detailed inventory of this mixed forest of 620 hectares taken in 1947, it was

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established that it contained 434,000 cubic meters of trees, (130,200 cubic meters of evergreens and 303,800 cubic meters of beech). Of the evergreens, 62,000 cubic meters (trees with a diameter of 30 centimeters and up) were available for cutting. However, of this amount only 30,000 cubic meters were set aside for cutting for the survival of the forests.

13. In the meantime, since 1947 up to the present date, 75,000 cubic meters of trees have been cut. This means that 13,000 extra cubic meters of trees, with a diameter of 30 centimeters and up, were entered in the tree inventory. The reason for this is that the Vukman Kruscic enterprise chopped down the entire mass of 62,000 cubic meters regardless of the existing plan of the Ministry which approved the cutting of 30,000 cubic meters of trees in this particular wood area. Furthermore, in order to comply with the assignment given it by the Planning Commission of Montenegro to supply beams, the Vukman Kruscic enterprise proceeded with cutting 13,000 cubic meters of evergreens which were less than 30 centimeters in diameter. At present, the ratio of deciduous trees to evergreens is 303,800 to 55,200 which would mean 84 per cent beech and 15 per cent evergreen. In ten years time, beech trees will completely strangle remaining slender evergreen trees and dominate the whole area. Thus, the forest will become a pure beech forest of a poor quality wood, to be used only for fire wood.
14. Another example of poor management of the woods of Montenegro in particular, and throughout Yugoslavia in general is the following: After a conference in Titograd in the Ministry of Industry, the director of the Prvi Maj enterprise in Niksic was given the assignment to supply approximately 1,000 area (dimensional) meters of soft cellulosewood. Without waiting for instructions from the wood management in Niksic, the director, Tripa Franjevic, gave orders that 2,300 evergreen trees, remaining from the previous cutting and with a diameter of 26 centimeters, be cut in the Leljini Doli lumber camp to meet the requested amount of soft cellulose wood. Upon order of Engineer Vladimir Ljovin, chief within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, of the section for maintenance of order in forests, the Raion (district) forester submitted a complaint against the Front workers who were in charge of cutting. The report was later passed on to the public prosecutor in Niksic. During the trial, the director defended himself by saying that a ministerial friend had ordered him to cut the trees regardless of instructions. The minister defended himself by saying that he had issued the orders as a non-specialist, and did not realize that the wood may not be cut without instructions. Since both officials successfully "justified themselves", the chief of utilization of forests was called to task, and fined 6,000 dinars for carelessness. Damage actually incurred, according to the books, amounted to 875,000 dinars. The above mentioned director, Tripa Franjevic, was given a 10,000 dinar reward by the Montenegrin Ministry of Industry for successful management, while the cutting brigade received the shockworkers' merit award. Only the barren area in the Leljini Doli camp remains as proof of the careless management of state and public property.
15. Forest fires reached vast proportions in 1946 and 1947 so that most forests were greatly endangered. Listed below are areas burned and amount of damage:

Vojnik, from Mekro to Donja (approximately 1,500 hectares)	Approximately 20,000,000 dinars
Kraljeva Gora (800 hectares)	14,000,000 dinars
Buletin Forest (250 hectares)	25,000,000 dinars
Lisac (1,000 hectares)	55,000,000 dinars
Ravna Gora, Metovka, Bjelasica, and other wood areas (approx- imately 10,000 hectares)	850,000,000 dinars

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These fires were caused by draught, negligence of lumbermen and by negligent peasants who cleaned their meadows by fire. Management in each case threw the blame upon Chetniks hidden in the forests. All burned areas were turned over by the Ministry of Forests of Montenegro for exploitation to the Ministry of Industry of the National Republic of Serbia, which, with this purpose in mind, opened lumber camps in Ravna Gora, Glibaci, Vaskovo, and Arndzija. This last camp operates today, whereas the others ceased to operate in 1948. The Ministry of Forestry of Montenegro permitted these camps to cut down only burnt trees, which could be utilized for technical (engineering) purposes.

16. In the meantime, the Ministry of Industry of the National Republic of Serbia and its various lumber camps cut even the healthy trees, which had been untouched by fire, causing even greater damage to the Montenegrin forests. The cut-down trees were thrown into the Lim and Tara rivers and floated to Obrenovac and Belgrade. The Serbian Republic was accorded the utilization of the so-called Baloticke forests, along the upper Ibar, which were to supply the industrial enterprise in Kosovska Mitrovica. The same forests were put at the disposal of the mill in Rozaj, i.e., the industrial forest enterprise Gornji Ibar, under the jurisdiction of the Montenegrin Ministry of Industry. In addition to the Balotice forests, Serbia was given the forests of the Dobrilovina monastery, on the Tara River, the Krmija lumber camp, and the wooded Jelena Mountain area, to supply the mill in Obrenovac. Bosnia and Hercegovina were given the Obzir and Uvac wooded areas, on the Tara River and the Vucje wooded area on the Piva River. Mills in Obrenovac and Uvaca were to reduce production or cease operation. Because of the great chaos which reigns in the forest lumber camps, where everything is done with a view to productional competition (cutting the greatest number of trees and transporting them to the mill), forest utilization in Montenegro, and through Yugoslavia in general, might be described as mere looting. There is no care of forests whatsoever. Stumps are as high as two meters, and the limbs are left lying about. Rotted logs, 2 to 3 years old, which have been left behind, are to be found scattered everywhere.
17. Notations are invariably made in books that the plan has been exceeded and that utilization of the forests is as high as from 78 to 90 per cent. However, when such rotted logs come to the mill, their utilization never goes beyond 7 per cent, which disproves the exactness and accuracy of the books of various forest enterprises and lumber camps.
18. Because of the non-specialized and chaotic work among the lumber camps, the latter have more or less become spreaders of the forest parasite, "Podkornjak" which has taken root and spread throughout forests of Montenegro. Yearly damage caused by this parasite amounts to 700 million dinars. What is even worse, the parasite has attacked young trees. Nothing at all is being done to counteract this parasite, because it has not yet assumed as great proportions as the blight in 1949.
19. Desolation which is being created by the looting industry in forestry is quite evident. The only question is when the remaining forests in Montenegro will be destroyed.