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REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 29 November 1961

SUBJECT Opinions of Minor Officials in Macedonia
Concerning Collectivization and American
Aid

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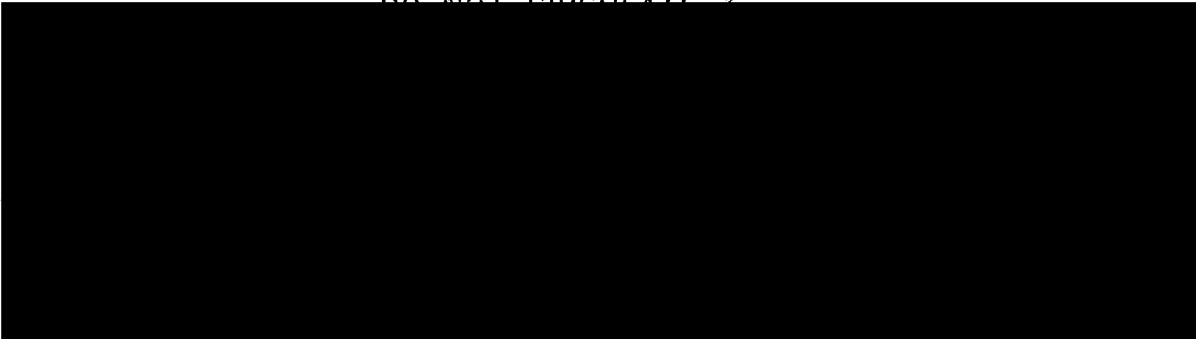
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1. Toward the end of April 1951, Risto Pilicov, Organizational Secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Party in Strumica, allegedly made a speech on the collectivization policy of the Yugoslav Government, in which he purportedly made statements to the effect that:
 - a. The Americans and the British are not coming to Yugoslavia to free the people from Communism;
 - b. The Yugoslav Government has no intention of changing its policy, consequently, the present system of collectivization will not be altered. Yugoslavia lost 1,700,000 lives during World War II in defense of her ideals, and the Yugoslav Communist Party will fight to the last man in order to preserve its achievements.
 - c. Yugoslavia merely maintains trade relations with American imperialists, relations which are profitable to Yugoslavia.
 - d. All of the peasants in Yugoslavia are being forced to join the collectives because the Government aspires to complete socialization of the country. Peasants who leave the collectives will not be able to obtain employment anywhere in Yugoslavia. It would be useless for peasants to flee to other countries owing to the fact that Communism will soon be dominant throughout the world.

2. During the months of January and February 1951, following various speeches and interviews by Marshal Tito on the subject of relations between Yugoslavia and the Western nations, the people in the Strumica area of Macedonia reportedly hoped for some change in the policy of the Yugoslav regime. With this goal in view, the people of the area addressed petitions to authorities in Skoplje and Belgrade, in which they complained about the inefficient management of the collectives and the brutality of local officials, and asked that the collectives be abolished. When no attention was paid to these petitions, the district committees sent representatives to the various villages to explain that the speeches of Marshal Tito and high level Party officials were intended only to create a favorable impression abroad, and that there was no intention of modifying the existing internal policy in Yugoslavia.

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3. Peasants of the village of Banica who had written to the Government in order to demand that the collectives be abolished, were allegedly arrested by the UDB, but released five days later.
4. Dobre Danev, Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Strumica Town People's Council and former Secretary of the Village Workers' Cattle Cooperative, was reportedly sent to the village of Banica to explain that the Tito regime had no intention of changing the existing internal policy in Yugoslavia. He has expressed the opinion that he does not believe the Soviet Union will ever attack Yugoslavia.
5. In connection with the subject of American aid, Yugoslav Government and Communist Party personnel have reportedly been instructed to say that the Yugoslav Communist Party is not opposed to this aid, but the Party has no intention of altering its policies and intends to proceed with the socialization and communization of the country. This explanation was given publicly by the Communist Party District Committee at meetings in Strumica and the village of Bosiljevo.
6. According to informants, it has been rumored in Strumica that Alexander Rankovic, Minister of the Interior, was opposed to accepting any aid from "capitalist" states because he feared they might interfere in Yugoslavia's internal affairs.

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Comment: Your attention is called to earlier disseminations: [REDACTED] for additional information concerning community organization and collectives in the Strumica district of Macedonia.

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