

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 29, 1958

SUBJECT: Yugoslav Chargé's Call on Mr. Kohler

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Franc Primozic, Yugoslav Chargé d'Affaires

Mr. Henry P. Leverich, Deputy Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs

COPIES TO:

F  
 ENC  
 IPS  
 U - Mr. Curtis  
 W - Mr. McKisson  
 Mr. Satterlin

By appointment made at his request Mr. Primozic, the Yugoslav Chargé, called on Mr. Kohler this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Since Mr. Kohler was called to the Secretary's office a few minutes after his arrival Mr. Leverich substituted for Mr. Kohler.

The following matters were raised by Mr. Primozic:

(1) The Yugoslav Embassy here had noted that within recent months leading newspapers in the East, such as the New York Times, the Washington Post and the New York Herald Tribune, had been publishing more Yugoslav news and in so doing had demonstrated a greater understanding of the Yugoslav position than had been the case in times past. Primozic felt that this was in large part due to the efforts of the Embassy to explain Yugoslav views to the press here and considered this a very salutary development. The Embassy had reported on this to its Government and as a result the conclusion had been reached that it would be very beneficial in terms of US-Yugoslav relations if representatives of the "provincial" press in the US could be rendered more familiar with the Yugoslav situation. One effective way to bring this about would be for correspondents of selected newspapers to visit Yugoslavia.

Mr. Primozic said his Government would have like to invite 4 or 5 correspondents to visit Yugoslavia in late September or October for a period of about two weeks. The Yugoslav Government was prepared to pay all expenses for these correspondents while they were in Yugoslavia and would welcome them either as a group or coming separately as individuals. Unfortunately the Yugoslav Government was not in a position to pay their transportation charges to and from Yugoslavia. Primozic wondered if there were some way whereby this transportation could be financed either by the newspapers sending the correspondents or possibly through official funds. Primozic said that the Yugoslavs did not wish to designate

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particular newspapers but suggested that correspondents from any of the following papers would be in line with their thinking:

St. Louis Post Dispatch  
Milwaukee Journal  
Pittsburgh Press  
Cleveland Plain Dealer  
Los Angeles Times  
San Francisco Chronicle  
Baltimore Sun  
Chicago Daily News  
Chicago Sun-Times

Primozic believed that if correspondents from these or similar papers could spend about two weeks in Yugoslavia they would have a much better understanding of the country and that their despatches would go a long way toward informing the American public about Yugoslavia.

Mr. Leverick noted this proposal with interest and said that he would check into the matter as soon as possible. He promised to communicate with Mr. Primozic in the near future.

Mr. Primozic added that his proposal was not put forward on the basis of an exchange but that, of course, Yugoslavs would be very happy if a group of Yugoslav journalists could be invited to this country for a tour of the United States.

(2) Primozic referred to conversations between various representatives of the Embassy here and Departmental officials, notably between Mr. Kendrick and Mr. DeFranceschi having to do with the possibility for increasing cultural exchanges between Yugoslavia and the United States as well as the desirability of arranging for an exhibition of Yugoslav paintings in this country. He said that the Embassy was already negotiating with the American Federation of Arts for the display of certain Yugoslav exhibits in this country. He wished to reaffirm the Yugoslav interest in building up US-Yugoslav relations in the cultural field.

(3) Primozic referred to a Yugoslav film titled "Never Look Back" which the Embassy had recently received and about which he had already talked to Mr. George Allen and Mr. Turner Shelton of USIA. He said this was an excellent film portraying recent developments in Yugoslavia and that Congressman Slatski had already showed it to an audience of Senators and Representatives here who had responded most favorably. The Yugoslav Embassy was making arrangements to show the film in other parts of the United States and this fall the Embassy would certainly have at least one showing here in Washington. He simply wished to call this to the Department's attention.

(4) Primozic said that his Embassy has received information from the Yugoslav Embassy in Tunisia to the effect that the US Information Office there had recently distributed 500 copies in the French language of Djilas' book "The New Class" to eminent Tunisian officials and parliamentarians. Primozic was not formally

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pretending this action but he wished to make known Yugoslav concern about it and Yugoslav regret that the US was permitting such activities which could only be detrimental to US-Yugoslav relations. He wondered whether this meant a change in our former position dissociating ourselves from any connection with the Djilas' book. Mr. Leverich said that he would have to check into the facts of this matter before he could make any comment and that he would do so forthwith.

(5) Primozic again referred to the Yugoslav desire for adaptation of our visa procedures in such a way as to facilitate prompt issuance of visitors visas to Yugoslavs wishing to come to the United States. He recalled that this had been a subject of discussion between us for some time and asked whether Mr. Leverich had anything to report on the matter. The latter replied that he was presently discussing the question with the Visa Office and that the Department would be in touch with Mr. Primozic on this subject in the near future.

HP:Leverich:eb

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