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COUNTRY: Yugoslavia

CIA

SUBJECT: Communist Take-over Methods

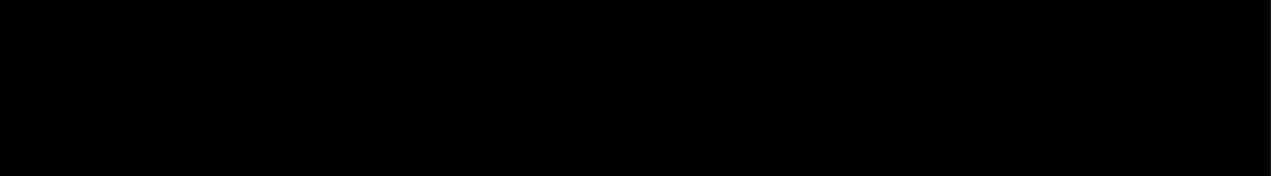
PLACE: [Redacted]

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1. I frequently receive letters from friends of mine in the Litija district of Yugoslavia. Because they are afraid of the Communist censorship, they do not dare to criticize the regime directly. However, I have received many indirect implications that conditions in Litija have not improved since I left in 1946. Based on what I saw happen when the Communists took over in 1945, I do not believe the people of Litija will ever lose their hatred of the Tito regime.

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2. [Redacted] for 10 years, I came to know nearly everyone in the area. When the Partisans took over control of the town in 1945, there were very few local men with them. The Partisans set up a committee of 12 to administer the affairs of the surrounding area. Because I knew everyone in Litija, I was forced to become a member of the committee, which consisted of 10 Communists, plus myself and one other non-Communist.

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3. When I tried to avoid these meetings, one of the Communists' members came to my home and said, [Redacted] remember you have only one head to lose."

4. Litija is a town of about 3000 people. Prior to World War II it had a police force of 3 men but when I left in 1946 there were about 280 Communist ppolice there.

5. In the first 3 months of Communist control they executed over 200 people. In contrast, during four years of German occupation only 12 people in the Litija area were executed.

6. The Communists had two basic motives for killing. If a man owned a farm or a house that a Party member wanted, the man would be secretly killed and his property confiscated by the Party. Or, if a man refused to aid the Communists, a member of his family, preferably a young son, would be killed to "convince" the father.

7. I believe the only reason I was not killed was that I was the only doctor in the area. However, my house was taken by the Communists and I received the equivalent of US\$ 50 cents a month rent.

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8. The Communists passed a decree stating that any house containing 3 apartments or more became the property of the state.

The farmers in the area were so heavily taxed that to keep their farms, they were forced to cut down their woodlots to pay the taxes.
9. Within a year, all travel was closely controlled by the Communist police. Everyone carried an identity card. I could not travel more than 10 kilometers from Litija without having to show my card to the police.
10. In March 1946 I went hunting with a friend. On the way home we stopped to see a farmer I had known for many years whose 15 year old son had recently been shot by the Communists because the father would not join the Party. The following day the police came to me and wanted to know if the farmer had said anything against the Communists. I said no because they were looking for an excuse to arrest him and take his farm.
11. When I took the train from Litija to Ljubljana I had to show my identity card to the police when I got on, at least once while on the train, and again when I got off.

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