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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT, ZONE 3
APO 512

1 June 1946

SUBJECT: Capture of General Draja MIHALOVIC.

TO : GSI(b), 3 District, CMF.

1. Inclosed is a report passed to this office by a reliable confidential informant. Report emanates from Belgrade and deals with the events leading up to, and the ruse used to capture MIHALOVIC by TITO soldiers.

2. It is requested that names of persons mentioned be treated discreetly to protect their identity. Names were used in report for use in verifying same if need arises.

3. For your information.

M.A. TONINI
Major, MI
Supervising Agent

Distribution:

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This report arrived from the Corps Command of POZEGA of the Royal Yugoslav Army in Yugoslavia from Major Milos MARKOVIC who on 12 May 1946 was located with the High Command in the TRUDOVO-KATICI-NOVA VAROS-LJUBIS (villages) area.

This report deals with the circumstances of the capture of General MIHAILOVIC and was brought by special courier sent from Yugoslavia.

"Towards the end of February the High Command was located in the TEOCIN-BRAJICI-GORNJE-DOLNJE DOBRINJE-BELA CEKVA-RAZANA region. We were advised by courier that the Supreme Commander (MIHAILOVIC) was sick with Typhus for several days.

On 26 February 1946 we received from the High Command a coded message which read as follows: 'The High Command has concrete proof that the TITO Communist Forces will soon launch a strong effort to find and annihilate our clandestine ground forces. We have proof that units of the 4th and 37th Divisions have received emergency rations for five days. At the garrisons at GACAK, UZICE and ZVORNIK, light artillery and light tanks have strengthened the units. Preparations for ground actions are being made by units of the 37th Division. Our forces at TREBAVA and OZREN are at present fighting against units of the 27th and 38th Divisions. The 19th Musulman Brigade was practically annihilated by our ROMANJA Corps near VLASENICA. In Southern Serbia there is local activity on both sides in the ORECHOVCA, NIKODIM and IZVOR regions. All commanders will undertake the most severe measures and carry out the very confidential instructions # 278/45, keeping in mind to protect and save the villages and avoid the encirclement and annihilation of our forces by the more superior forces of the enemy. The High Command will react to the development of the operation and proceed towards the head waters of the DRINA River and the LIMA Valley.'

At the Headquarters of the High Command Major Nikola MILIK-IC was Chief of the Operations Section.

When the above order was received, I was located on the MUGNIA plateau at SLATIBOR above the village of RADALJEVO. A few days later the TITO columns were on the move. My SLATIBOR Brigade attacked units of the 37th Division at UVAC while the POZESKA Brigade was attacking units of the 4th Division at MACKA. (The 4th Division units were predominantly composed of Albanian Communists). Because of the enemy superiority, I had given the order to avoid frontal attacks. Concerning the rear-

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GUARD action of the High Command, we had not received any news, and it was impossible to establish courier contact.

On 18 March 1946 we received a report that disturbed us very much and which we could not believe. It seems that about 10 March 1946 the High Command had arrived in the region situated south of RUDO. In this village they procured medicines for the sick Chief (MIHAILOVIC), who, during the transference of the High Command, was carried on the shoulders of our men. During this transfer one of the personal doctors of MIHAILOVIC was taken prisoner in a battle near SEMEGNJEVO. Under interrogation and torture by OZNA agents and Russian officers, he revealed that he was MIHAILOVIC's personal doctor and he also revealed the transfer plan of the High Command.

The same night enemy planes began to conduct reconnaissance flights over the territory where the High Command was located. They dropped leaflets seemingly edited by Anglo-Americans saying that they had come to aid us and bring to us arms and ammunition. The following night, after having flown over the area for some time, the planes dropped various packages of ammunition and medical supplies of Allied origin. In one packet were instructions for preparing and marking a landing strip for landing some supply planes.

On 13 March 1946, in the afternoon, two planes with Allied markings arrived. They flew low and dropped some flares so that we could indicate to them the place where they were to land. We answered according to the instructions we had received, and the two planes landed in a field (long enough) about 10 kms. northwest of RUDO. Several officers in Allied uniform (American) who spoke English and French descended. The three highest ranking of the group were led to our Headquarters where they agreed with the officers of our Headquarters to transport the sick Chief. General MIHAILOVIC was running a high fever at the time and was not conscious. That is the reason why they wanted to take him to Italy for awhile, to cure him and subsequently to return him secretly to the mountains of Yugoslavia. He was immediately placed in the airplane in the custody of two of our officers who went along. During this time two other planes landed and nine other officers from our Headquarters climbed in, among whom were two non-commissioned officers and the Chiefs (MIHAILOVIC's) ordnance personnel. As soon as the plane which was carrying MIHAILOVIC took to the air, the other three followed. At this time several planes appeared and began flying over the area. We thought they were serving as fighter protection for the Chief's plane, but after having cruised over the area for awhile where the Headquarters troops were located, they began to drop small gas bombs

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which seemed to paralyse or put our troops to sleep. We had been warned from the direction of PRIBOJ that motorized troops were approaching at the same time that one group of planes began to drop parachutists on our Headquarters. Immediately upon hitting the ground, the parachutists opened fire on our men who were attempting to form protective cover for our Headquarters and who had not been affected by the gas bombs. The battle began because finally our men had understood that they were dealing with the enemy who had employed a ruse to kidnap the Chief. The enemy attempted to pierce our lines, enter the Headquarters area, and capture our files, but a large number of them were killed. Because of the arrival of the strong column coming from PRIBOJ, our men withdrew towards GOLES and from there they began an evacuation towards FODCA. Our men were able to bring down one plane. A large number of the enemy were killed, but we also suffered big losses.

From here we later had news that MIHAILOVIC was taken to SARAJEVO and from there to BELGRADE without having recovered consciousness. They say that he was unconscious for seven days, being fed artificially. When he at last recovered consciousness, he asked where he was, and when he found he was in BELGRADE, he said: "Up to now I have done my duty; you now can do what you have decided."

All the above was reported by Captain KALAJITOVIC, who commands the PLEVLJE Brigade.

The special courier assures to have given an exact report which was transmitted to him by Major MARKOVIC, the commander of the POZESKOG Corps.

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