

SECRET

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
Zone #3, Milan Detachment
A P O 512

31 March, 1946

SUBJECT : Yugoslav Troop Dispositions near Italian Frontier.

TO : GSI (b), 2 District

1. This officer received the following information from a usually reliable (confidential) source, giving some Yugoslav troop dispositions near the Venezia-Guillia region.

a. At CERKNISKO POLJE are located two (2) infantry regiments and numerous trucks for use as troop transports.

b. At ZIRI LOGATEC, there is located a tank unit. The tanks are K.V.'s and are located on the left side of the road going from ZIRI to IDRIA. Troop strength includes one (1) regiment and from 20 to 30 tanks (light)

c. At VRHNIKA-BOROVNICA, on the left side of the road going towards PLANINA there is located an armored unit which was previously stationed at SAN PIETRO del CARSO.

d. SAN PIETRO-RAZDOTO (PREVALO). There are several anti-tank batteries. Guns are 20 mm., of SKODA PILSEN make.

(c and d are some of the troops and arms of the II Division of SKOPLJE which has more than 100 K.V. tanks at its disposition, and whose troops are well armed, including many automatic arms.

e- At KNEZAK-FONTANA del CONTE, on the road running east toward the old Yugoslav-Italian frontier, on a hill named BOG is located most of the heavy artillery. Headquarters are located in the elementary school in the village of PALCJE. Another headquarters is located in the village of JURSCJE near PALCJE. Russian military advisors are supposed to be located at both places.

f. Between SEMBIJE and KNEZAK, on the west side of the road, in a little wood are located several light artillery batteries (of German make).

g. In the region of TRNOVO-ILIRSKA BISTRICA (TORRENOVA-Villa del NEVOSO) in the village of KOSEZE (Cossese) two (2) kilometers from BISTRICA, on the hill behind the village are located about 20 assault tanks of German make. Troops are Serbs and Bulgars.

(From the above information the key positions seem to be at IL BISTRICA, SEMBIJE, ZAGORJE, KNEJAK and SAN PIETRO)

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h. In ISTRIA there are 5 divisions with HQ at KLANA (Clana). The divisions have numerous assault tanks, trucks for troop transport and armored cars. The CG is General IVANOVIC.

i. At HERMESBURGO is located the 920th artillery and at CABAR and PREZID are held troops in reserve.

j. At UCKA (MONTE MAGGIORE) towards the west (towards PAZIN OR PISINO) there is a division located in the triangle formed by PAZIN-ARSIA-ARBONA. The troops are well armed, but poorly clothed.

k. There is one division located at CANFANARO and another is located in the LOKVA-RODIK-HORPELJE area with GHQ at DIVACA (DIVACCIA). Artillery is located at TATRE (behind RODIK). Troops are armed with light automatic arms. There are also several tanks at BUZET (PINGUENTE). Reserves for these divisions are located at HRUSICA, MUNE, OBROVO, PODGRAD (CASTELNUOVO D'ISTRIA), and KNOJ. These reserves are poorly equipped and poorly disciplined. The troops are ex-partisans.

l. At VILLA DECANI (DEKANI) on the road CAPODISTRIA-TRIESTE are located several heavy tanks. At SKOFLJE anti-tank units are located on the hill behind the village.

m. At BORST (SAN ANTONIO di MOCCO)-KNOJ are located propaganda units for political purposes, destined for TRIESTE.

n. At PORTORUSE-PIRANO is located the HQ charged with organizing the region for the visit of the Allied Commission.

o. At KARLOVAC, it is rumored that Russian officers and troops are still in the region.

p. At SAVSKO POLJE, KRSKO POLJE, PTUJSKO POLJE and at the old airport of POSTUMIA are located several small planes.

q. The barracks at POSTUMIA, towards CACCIA have been vacated by the troops.

2. Map references of the above named localities are not included due to lack of the necessary maps.

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MILITARY NEWS

Bases:

The mobilization section is included into the frame of military district command. The section was its collection bases, first and second class bases and relay bases. Their task is to gather and direct by order of the "mobilization section" chief, all mobilized men into the fixed units. KLVP: Command of Ljubljana military district. Mobilization sections are subordinate directly to Army mobilization section.

Aviation:

First air division in Ljubljana with its staff in the former Artillery barracks, is composed of two regiments; bombers and fighters. Additionally there is the air command.

Pilot school at Lesce locality airport. Theoretical lectures are given only to 50 pupils. The second group of 50 pupils, who attend theoretical lessons only, is at Bled locality.

There is a new airport in construction on Sersko field (20 kilometers north of Ljubljana).

Tank Units:

First Tank Army at Belgrade. All tank units are subordinate to this army. In Slovenia there are:

First tank division, staff at Kranj (25 km. north of Ljubljana); has:

1st tank Brigade, seat Vrhnika town (barracks),

2nd " " " at Kranj.

Tank Brigade at Vrhnika has four battalions: 3 tanks and 1 engineer battalion. Near Barracks at Vrhnika tank air raid shelters are constructed. Brigade staff is at "Crni orel" inn at Vrhnika.

Independents units:

Every army has a sanitary brigade.

Antitank brigade staff is artillery barracks at Ljubljana. Commander is Major Juriele Jerke (simultaneously polit-commissioner). Has three divisions, each three batteries. One battery has two PAK 88mm and 4/55mm (German).

Antiaircraft brigade: Staff at Mariber town. Has four divisions, each three batteries. Armament: Heavy Breda 20mm and heavy German antiaircraft machine-gun 20mm.

Engineer brigade: Staff at Ptuj town.

Heavy artillery brigade of the IVth Army motored, staff of brigade and its units at Postojna. The Commander is Captain Filip Bujan (railway attendant) from Gerski Kotaf. Polit-commissioner is Major Cvrlje Zdenke, a student, 22 years old from Split.

Chief of Staff is Cpt. Buke Draske (now imprisoned).

Brigade has three divisions, each three batteries, background command, measures battery and staff battery.

A brigade numbers 900 men;
Commanders: 1st division Lieut. Podkenjak,
2nd " " Bulj,
3rd " Capt. Blansa Vuk,
background command Lieut. Delipeter Branks.
Armament: 32 howitzers 105 mm (German)
4 " 152 mm (2 Russian, 2 German)
Staff battery is armed similarly as infantry company and has guard service only.

Organization composition of the heavy artillery brigade:

Brigade staff: Chief of staff,
Operation section,
Personnel section,
Organization section,
Political section (Club included),
Background command.
Operation section: Deputy chief of staff,
Intelligence officer,
Topographical officer,
Drawers.
Personnel section: Chief of section,
Non commissioned officers' reporter
(officers dispersed of Army solely).
Secretary
Typists
Organization section: Chief of section
Deputy chief,
Writers,
Political section: Political propaganda,
Youth work,
Control and censorship,
Characteristics (Deputy polit-commissioner)
Club: Chairman,
Art section,
Culture and education section,
Cashier and economist.

Brigade OZNA: apparently separated by Brigade staff and has its own work rooms; jointly with the political brigade section.

OZNA representative: Captain Ive Novak (baker) 25 years old,
his Deputy Lieut. Lukas Marinko.

OZNA representative has his own folk-confidants in all units. He receives reports personally and is subordinate to Army OZNA chief.

Names and division composition:

Divisions (Brigades) are named:
X Division
YK Attack division,
YK Proletarian Division

An Ordinary Division (Brigade) receives the title of "Attack Division", if she is marked out in the battle and gets praises. If the Attack Division is praised again she gets title "Proletarian Division".

Division is composed of:
3 Infantry (shooting) Brigades.
1 Artillery division and
Background command and
Battalion of accompanying arms.

February 1946

REPORT FROM SLOVENIA

"Epuration" in the Army.

On November 5th 1945, the epuration action among the IVth Army started. The prisons for the purpose are at St. Peter on Cars in former Italian barracks. By December 14 1945, 610 officers and non-commissioned officers were arrested and brought there. The prisons are called "discipline prisons". They are under OZNA and National Militia men control. In the forenoon they all have to undergo military exercises under polit-commissioner control. In the afternoon they attend political lectures. The arrested are accused with no exception to be either "royalists" or "anglophils". A non-commissioned officer f.e. has been arrested for having publicly spoken about higher culture of western allies than ours! Among the arrested there are 9 officers of the heavy artillery brigade at Postojna town. Among them the chief of Brigade, Captain Boko Braska. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

All prisoners who were there on November 11, had to go to the polls. Electoral commission members were polit-commissioners, who attended the elections armed with pistols. The voting was strongly controlled. In spite of the control the opposition got 100 votes. A strong examination was carried out next day as to who casted the votes against Tito.

Appeal to soldiers to join the Communist party.

Recently an intensive campaign was carried out among soldiers to the effect to join the Communist Party. Only few answered the appeal as it was stated by those who escaped. Soldiers who are party members attend regular meetings (Battalion and Brigade meetings). They receive political education and instructions as to there activity among comrades. The meetings are ignored by soldiers who are not members.

Return of Slovenes from Soviet war prisoners' camps.

In first days of December 1945 a group of soldiers from Upper Carniola who were forcibly mobilized by Germans, returned from Soviet Russia. Having ignored the home conditions, they related openheartedly about cruelties they have seen in Soviet Russia. They related about mass murders of German soldiers, about death camps, misery in Russia, trains coming from Germany loaded with machines, clothing, window frames, entire wagons of door and window lathes, plain cloth a.s.o. They declared to have seen Ukraners brought formerly to Germany to forced labour and now put in Soviet camps. Those who worked for Germans willingly were "liquidated" charged with having had seen too much in Europe. The people were amazed at the news. Yet they were still more amazed when OZNA agents drove off two of the returned men in unknown direction. This attitude makes people believe in Truthfulness of what it was said about.

Tito's M.P. arrested.

Jasbec Alejzij, during occupation of Party's commissioner and Communist Party member for Brezice-Kozje district, was appointed as candidate for Union Assembly. He was elected as such. Before Christmas he was arrested by OZNA during the night and put in prison at first in Nove mesto and later on Ljubljana. He is still there. One ignores the reason for his arrest.

Brigade Commander of 23rd Division, Lieut. Col. Zupancic was arrested by OZNA as well. It was not possible for his wife to find out his whereabouts even after two months. He was a career Yugoslav officer and fought two and a half years as commander of several partisan units.

Report from Venezia Giulia.

Tito's military occupation authorities arrested recently a great number of inhabitants in the sector Abbazia-Volosca for having refused to sign the resolution regarding the incorporation of Venezia Giulia into Yugoslavia. Among the arrested there is a great number of functionaries of the present regime.

During a New Year entertainment a partisan woman committed suicide in the middle of the ball room. Before firing the death shot she exclaimed: "I did not fight for such liberty, this is but a common fascist bluff and filthiness."

Togliati's call at Trieste.

On January 9th 1946, Togliati, the Italian communist party leader secretly sailed at Trieste having had long conference both with Italian communists and leaders of Slovenian communists at Trieste.

Shadowing fascists

Tito's military authorities started to cut 100 broad ^{wood} stripe along the whole old Yugoslav-Italian frontier line. The trees are cut without regard to need purposes. The people were instructed that these measures aimed at avoiding horse smuggling from Yugoslavia into Italy.

New airport in Slovenia in building.

In December 1945 military authorities decreed the land expropriation in Sorsko jolje, district between Ratece and Skofja Loka in extent of 800ha. A new airport is about to be built there for international traffic purposes as it was stated by military experts. Reconstruction work on Ljubljana airport stopped as it is in great majority useless due to the permanent fog.

The works for other buildings-accessories (magazines, depots, etc) of the airport started as well. This is done on the place between Skofja Loka station and the Skofja Loka town at 2½ km. distance from the station on the right road side.

Centralization again.

All greater commercial enterprises were ordered to forward a fixed up surplus profit per cents to control Ministry of Finance to Belgrade and not to federal government at Ljubljana.

A REPORT FROM YUGOSLAVIA WITH SPECIAL REGARDS TO SERBIA

The news from Yugoslavia after the last elections outline the increase of the terror in all branches of the public life. The people who were successful in escaping from Yugoslavia declared that "a new Yugoslavia" there existed after elections. The slogan of the electoral campaign "that a new wave of strong epuration" would follow the results of the elections, becomes a reality now. Those who believed they would be out of danger if they collaborate with the regime, are persecuted and arrested.

Tito's reconstructed government introduced a regime of "the strong hand", because the OZNA chief, General-Lieut. Alexander Rankovic became Home Minister; Colonel Sloboda Penezic, OZNA chief for Serbia, became Home Minister for Serbia and General Masek, OZNA chief in Slovenia became Home Minister in Slovenia. The dissatisfaction is growing even among partisans and communist Party members.

I.

The emigration is being suppressed with strongest measures. The frontiers are closed and guarded tightly by soldiers. The passports are given to the old Party members and for the state purposes only.

In the last weeks the following partisan leaders and chief members of the Communist Party left the country and emigrated to Italy:

- 1) Zafir Pazio, Major since 1941, member of Communist Party and Executive Committee member in Sarajevo.
- 2) Josip Borlak, partisan and secretary of the National Committee.
- 3) Dr. Pero Kostic, chief of the State reconstruction commission.
- 4) Djura Djuraskovic, the partisan Captain since 1941.
- 5) M. Milivojevic, partisan lieutenant, granted with decoration member of Communist party and polit-commissioner.
- 6) Stojan Prekic, partisan Lieutenant, Tito's personal driver and driver of several other high ranking personalities.
- 7) Ante Kriskovic, partisan since 1942.
- 8) Aca Jevremovic, chief of transport organization for all Yugoslavia.
- 9) Vladimir Fremru, Chairman of Industrial Board in Croatia.

2.

Since the beginning of February reprisals were taken in Yugoslavia against families whose members emigrated. No account is taken about the importance of the personality living abroad. Such families are not allowed to leave their domicile, they have to present themselves daily to the police-stations, or are arrested and their properties confiscated.

3.

In all larger towns the street secretaries have the task to fight against black marketing. They control and search parcels, bags and trunks if one enters a house or apartment. They search the apartments and kitchens to control eventual meat cooking on meatless days. Simultaneously the personal control is carried out.

4.

Dr. Ivan Subazic, former Foreign Minister in Tito's Government lives in a villa in Zagreb. His villa is under heavy guard by the OZNA agents. When he lives his apartment, he is closely shadowed and observed. A driver happened to have a breakdown before Subazic villa. He repaired his car in some minutes, yet he was arrested by OZNA men and charged to have helped Dr. Subazic to escape.

5.

Milan Grol, chief of the Democrat Party in Serbia and former first Deputy Prime Minister of Tito's Government was repeatedly questioned by OZNA agents as to his newspaper, "Demokratiya". Later on "Demokratiya" was stopped after its fourth number. Only one "Demokratiya" correspondent escaped arrest. The newspaper could not be published in kiosks and shops. The newsboys who had the courage to do it, were condemned

to between one and eight years hard labour.

In February foreign correspondents went to see Milan Grol (Assoc. Press, Reuter, Mavas). The journalist saw that he is afraid. Grol told them that he adopted principally the basic rules of the new constitution and asked them to outline that he is favourable for a compromise. The Yugoslav peoples did not fight for some chauvinist ideas but for the real freedom. The country needs freedom and only freedom. It is important to organize free elections brought in all branches of the country's life. This were Grol's words.

6.

Professor Dr. Dragoljub Jovanovic is the left wing chief of the Serbian Peasant Party, now "Agrarian Party". He joined Tito's National Front. During the discussion about the new constitution in January 1946, he spoke and welcomed the separation of the Church and State. He declared: "And now we have to proceed to separate the Communist Party from the State." The communists protested vehemently and Edvard Kardelj, Deputy Prime Minister and Mosa Pijade declared, that they were astonished about the declarations of Dragoljub Jovanovic, because they knew that Dr. Jovanovic's place was outside the National Front and that he belonged Milan Grol's group.

7.

A report from February on the situation of the Catholic Church in Croatia asserts:

In Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina 72 priests are imprisoned.

The archbishop Stepinac is not arrested for reasons of international character. He is strongly surveyed by OZNA. The state authorities confiscated his printing press "Narodna tiskara" and nearly all his property. He was admitted to print five small religious sheets in a small number and with religious contents only. All bridges between Church and State are broken. The state representatives demand his voluntary resignation. But the archbishop refused not ignoring that the whole people is behind him to his attitude against the Communist Party.

In Slovenia the situation is worse, because the Slovene communists are the most radical. More than 40 catholic priests are arrested. No catholic newspapers are allowed. Bishop Rotman is abroad and the diocese is directed by canon Vovk, the diocese - vicar general.

The clergy in Istria is in the best situation because the government coddles it in view of the special situation it has in Venezia Giulia. In Pisino a theological school was opened, a catholic newspaper is allowed to be published and all accusations against the priests are discussed first by the ecclesiastical authorities.

8.

Masgr. Svstozan Rittig from Zagreb, who joined the partisans, sent a small group of young priests to Czechoslovakia and Russia. The Jesuit Poglaj in Zagreb withdrew from monastery and went to Russia where he works for the communist youth. He left the order, his viewpoint having been to modernize the Church in socialization sense. All these groups try to come in contact with the French Socialist Catholic Jacques Maklen.

9.

In December 1945, OZNA agents in Zagreb arrested the archbishop's secretary Ivan Caris, chaplain Grajakovic, chaplain Simetski, "ustashi" Colonel Lisak, all charged with illegal collaboration with "Eritarji" (Crusaders). In Archbishop's Palace they found a flag of "Eridarji". Colonel Lisak came, as a matter of fact, to the palace. He was introduced to archbishop under alias. The archbishop recognized him and asked not to come any more.

10.

The military court of the IV Army in Sarajevo condemned on December 22, 1945, 22 members of the "Krlizarji" organization, who organized their movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Two were condemned to death and others to imprisonment and hard labour between one to twenty years.

11.

In January 1946, a group of "Krizarji" attacked near Sv. Klara close to Zagreb the refinery "OLIX" and set it on fire.

12.

In Zagorje, the western part of Croatia, the "Krizarji" are guided by merchant Zrinski. The people gave him the name "Prince of Zagorje". He ordered all Croats to leave the partisan army lest he would set their homes on fire. Some have obeyed the order, yet those remained, got their homes to have been set on fire.

13.

The situation in Zagreb by the end of February 1946 was as follows:

In Zagreb prevails a social misery. The peasants do not sell their products. A great disappointment everywhere. "Krizarji" are supported by peasants. To escape requisitions the peasants hide their cattle and all other property.

14.

In January 1946 a group of 160 youths were arrested in Belgrade. They formed the "illegal revolutionary youth organization" and was anti-communist minded and pro democratic. They wrote their slogans on house walls and streets.

15.

In January 1946 an epuration was carried out in Belgrade schools and other Serbian localities. In the III. gymnasium in Belgrade 50 students were expelled charged to have been 3 "fascists". Their cases were handed over to the local people's courts. Many of these students were partisans till the end of the war.

16.

In the outskirts of Belgrade some attempts were carried out in which some communist leaders were killed. Two lady teachers came from Kragujevac to Belgrade and gave false evidence in a trial. Both were killed by "chetniks" on their way home.

17.

Recently Dr. Nemeč, Communication Ministry reporter was tried. He was condemned to 10 years imprisonment, commuted later to two years. He was charged with sabotage acts and economic espionage in favour of a foreign power. The following happened: A British UNRRA Delegate came to him for technical information. Dr. Nemeč answered his appeal in an usual official way. Therefore he was accused of espionage and sentenced accordingly.

18.

In January 1946, OZNA arrested in Ljubljana the chief of the communal section for suppressing black market. The accused discovered UNRRA's articles having come on the black market. He was arrested and then set free, warned that he would be "liquidated" if he continues to search the matter. These articles were sold by Miss Gernata, a functionary of the Communist Party, who had the task to sell UNRRA articles.

19.

Several Serbs disappeared. Their families were informed that they were shot, yet it came out that they are on forced labour in Ploesti (Romania) where they are obliged to extinguish the fires in petrol areas. Among them are: Đucan Nogušević schoolmaster and former R.P., the wife of whom was informed that he was shot; Rada Stanić, merchant in Belgrade; Ing. Milutin Mladenović from Ivanjica (Serbia)

20.

In January 1946, 22 UNRRA trucks left Split for Sarajevo. On the way 8 trucks were captured by illegal sections and 14 only came to Sarajevo.

21.

Nicola Bosković, member of Communist Party in Zagreb, charged by Tito's authorities to have organized special sport manifestations in Trieste during the presence of international allied investigation commission in Trieste, declared among his close friends: Reconstruction difficulties in Yugoslavia are enormous. Especially peasants resist. The peasants refuse to bring their products on market. One egg

Zagreb costs 40 dinars (about 5 shillings). The peasant carry out the pass resistance. He cultivates his fields to meet his needs only. By now the p did not yield, but he will and we too will succeed.

The party gives lectures to young people and enable them to replace functionaries and part exponents. Many of the latter were arrested and lig intellectuals particularly, who were first employed as street or flat secret now do not more enjoy the party confidence.

In spite of terror the results are very dissatisfactory. The prolet grows steadily. The authorities refuse to offer them existence possibilities. generations educated in communism will be able to carry out a real socialist The first classes of this new generation will enter the public life in 6 or 7 If we pass this period, we shall win.

Questioned about the likely revolution under Gen. Mihaljovic, Kosko swared that all such movement will fail owing to the help of the Russian army already in the country. He declared that two Russian divisions are new Papuk Nasice) and some Russian troops are in other partsof the country.

22.

In Belgrade there is a special "propaganda section". Among the pers are painters, authors, sculptors, musicians. They work following the orders of state propaganda department.

23.

In December 1945, 35 Slovenes tried to escape from Yugoslavia to Aust. They were arrested and shot on the spot.

24.

In Yugoslavia there are special "syadicalist schools". But the pupils taught not only in the trade unionism but they are trained for terrorist actions, espionage and other political purposes particularly.

25.

Periodical groups of Yugoslav youth are sent to Russia to continue their education. They attend political studies (6 years) and military training (3 years). most of these youa people are illiterats. Once in Russia they have no contact with their families and their homes.

In Belgrade and Novi gad a group of 100 young people are about to be sent to Russia. Four only finished, the secondary school, 15 of them studied 4 years only, the others have but a slight school knowledge. Six of them are even illiterate. All are partisan officers with Major, Captain or Lieutenant ranks.

26.

In Serbia and Vojvodina the peasants refuse to accept the land given to them in accordance of agrarian reform. They refuse to create "kolhoses". Somewhere the authorities tried to give it by force but with no success.

27.

In February between Bosanska Krupa and Petrovac the partisans and illegal national sections fought and some six thousand partisans were killed or wounded.