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Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
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CITE

DIST

COUNTRY YUGOSLAVIA / USSR

DOI 21 SEPTEMBER 1966

SUBJECT POSSIBLE RELEASE OF MILOVAN DJILAS: ATTEMPT OF RANKOVIC TO
GAIN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR OVERTHROW OF TITO.

25X1A

ACQ

FIELD NO.

25X1X SOURCE

25X1C

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A VISIT TO THE HAGUE, SVETOZAR VUKMANOVIC-TEMPO ADDRESSED A MEETING OF YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AT THE RESIDENCE OF YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR DJURA NINCIC ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1966 AND STATED THAT "WE ARE GOING TO ACCEPT MANY OF MILOVAN DJILAS' IDEAS, AND WE ARE GOING TO RELEASE HIM FROM PRISON." HE DID NOT SAY WHEN DJILAS WOULD BE RELEASED. () COMMENT:

VUKMANOVIC-TEMPO IS PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ((POLITBURO)) OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS ((LCY)), AND A MEMBER OF THE LCY SINCE

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(classification)

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By jc, NARA, Date 7-6-01

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1933. DJILAS, A PROMINENT COMMUNIST INTELLECTUAL AND A FORMER MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WAS TRIED AND IMPRISONED IN 1956 FOR "REVISIONIST" IDEAS. HIS SENTENCE IS DUE TO EXPIRE LATE IN 1970).

25X1C 2. AT THE SAME MEETING, THE COUNSELLOR OF THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE, VLADIMIR PARADINOVIC, SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM MILOS MORACA, WHOSE BROTHER, MILUTIN MORACA, IS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THAT FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ALEKSANDAR RANKOVIC, WHILE HEADING A DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS, HAD ATTEMPTED TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF LEONID BREZHNEV, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, FOR A PLAN TO OVERTHROW YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO. HOWEVER BREZHNEV, WHO MISTRUSTED RANKOVIC BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-RUSSIAN (SIC) REPUTATION, HAD SENT WORD TO TITO WARNING HIM OF RANKOVIC'S INTENTIONS. () COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT TO SPECIFY THAT BREZHNEV HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY RANKOVIC FOR SUPPORT IN HIS AMBITION TO SUPPLANT TITO. RANKOVIC, WHO HAS BEEN CONSIDERED PRO-SOVIET IN RECENT YEARS, WAS, HOWEVER, NOTICEABLY ANTI-RUSSIAN IN 1948 AT THE TIME OF THE BREAK WITH THE COMINFORM. SINCE RANKOVIC'S OUSTER IN JULY 1966, SEVERAL ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO BLACKEN HIS REPUTATION, OF WHICH THIS MAY BE THE LATEST. RANKOVIC HEADED THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION TO THE 23RD CONGRESS OF THE CPSU IN LATE MARCH 1966, AND DELIVERED AN ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS. MILOS

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MORACA IS AN OFFICIAL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE SECRETARIAT
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FORMER YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL IN GRAZ,
AUSTRIA.

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3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: NONE

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