

# INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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CORRECTION ISSUED

Action

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07/09/66, 7:05 a.m., djs

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
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INFO RUFHJA/USMISSION BERLIN

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USIA

RUDICR/AMEMBASSY LONDON

NSC

RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PARIS FOR NATUS/INFO

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SUBJECT: RANKOVIC'S FALL -- PART VI

U.S. INTEREST

1. DOWNFALL OF RANKOVIC AND RELATED EVENTS SEEM, OVER LONG TERM, TO BE IN LINE WITH U.S. INTERESTS. LONG-TIME AIMS OF US POLICY HAVE BEEN TO SUPPORT LIBERALIZATION OF YUGOSLAV SOCIETY AND TO MAINTAIN YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE FROM ANY CENTRALIZED COMMUNIST CONTROL, PRINCIPALLY FROM MOSCOW. RANKOVIC WAS PARTY LEADER WITH AUTHORITARIAN BENT WHO ENVISAGED ROLE OF PARTY AS ONE OF CONTROLLING AND COMMANDING YUGOSLAV SOCIETY. HE THUS

WAS GUIDE AND SYMBOL FOR PARTY FUNCTIONARIES WHO WERE UNABLE TO ADJUST TO CHANGING INTERNAL ORDER AND THEREFORE FELT THEMSELVES MOST THREATENED BY LIBERALIZING TENDENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORM. OF TOP LEADERS RANKOVIC WAS ALSO MOST PALATABLE TO SOVIETS, IF INDEED HE WAS NOT HIMSELF PRO-SOVIET. CERTAINLY HE HAD THE CLOSEST CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS. DEPOSAL OF RANKOVIC AND "CLEANSING" (TITO'S WORD) OF THOSE WHO THOUGHT LIKE HIM WOULD SEEM TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO THOSE FAVORING LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNAL ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR PROGRAM WITH GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS. PROGRESS OF ECONOMIC-SOCIAL REFORM SHOULD BE ENHANCED

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By jc, NARA, Date 7-5-01