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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~ 25X1A

COUNTRY Yugoslavia REPORT [REDACTED]

TOPIC Concentration Camps in Yugoslavia

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1X

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1X

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 26 September 1950

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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SOURCE 25X1X [REDACTED]

1. Concentration camps have been established in each of the constituent republics of Yugoslavia. Each camp is administered by an officer of the UDBA called an Upravnik (administrator) who is responsible to the respective ministry of the interior. UDBA Lieutenant Colonel Voja Popovic is the Upravnik for Serbia.
2. About 12,000 persons are confined in the several camps located in the area of Belgrade which are under the supervision of UDBA Major Todor Rankovic. Each camp is occupied by an average of 2,000 to 2,500 prisoners, most of them serving 12 to 20-year terms at hard labor. Special militia is employed to guard the camps. Those camps occupied by Cominform members are subjected to particularly rigid controls; they are located near mines and not in the area of Belgrade.
3. Prisoners are permitted to write to relatives once a month. * The mail is transmitted via postal service. However, it is subjected to strict censorship, any mention of the location of the camp being forbidden. The concentration camps of each republic use one post office box in common. Post Office Box 43 in Belgrade is used by the camps in Serbia; Post Office Box 65 in Skoplje is used by the camps in Macedonia; Post Office Box 98 in Ljubljana is used by the camps in Slovenia; Post Office Box 72 in Zagreb is used by the camps in Croatia, and Post Office Box 32 in Sarajevo is used by the camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Those prisoners who conduct themselves well are permitted once every two months to leave the camp for two or three hours accompanied by a guard or to attend a motion picture theater. Prisoners who attempt to escape normally are shot on the spot. Agents provocateurs are located in all camps; they live among the prisoners and attempt to provoke remarks hostile to the present regime.
4. A camp commanded by UDBA Major Dane Lapcevic is located about 2 km southwest of the Semlin (Zemun) suburb near Belgrade. Two sections of this camp are occupied by Yugoslav nationals, while the third section is occupied by prisoners of other nationalities including Austrians and Germans.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. Correspondence is apparently restricted to Yugoslav nationals, because as yet no displaced Austrian has been known to have written a letter.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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