

Re : Our Source's Meeting with Representatives of the Society for  
Contacts with Abroad in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, July 1970

Source : 12 Marunchak, Mykhailo, Winnipeg.

Date : 11 Aug 1970

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Following is the gist of the topics discussed at the meeting that took place in Sarajevo on 16 July 1970 at the premises of the Society for Contacts with Abroad of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina (Matice iseljenika Bosna i Hercegovina) between our Source and his friend and interpreter Mykola Kahan of Banjaluka, on the one hand, and the Secretary of the Society in Sarajevo Bosko Jovic, editor of the organ of the Society Nas Svijet Hajrudin Mehmedbasic, and other representatives of that organization, on the other. The meeting or rather conference was arranged by Mykola Kahan.

1. The Source explained the reason for the interest of Canadian and other free Ukrainians in their compatriots in Yugoslavia and described the whole background of their recent charitable (as in the case of last year earthquake) and "cultural" aid, and expressed his satisfaction with the Yugoslav authorities for enabling Ukrainian educational and social life to develop in their own institutions. On this occasion he mentioned a recent declaration of Prof. Atif Purivatra, chairman of the Commission of Nationalities in Sarajevo who had appealed to the municipalities of Bosnia and Hercegovina to adhere to the principle that all pupils and students should have in school the possibility to learn their own native language. In this context Prof. P. enumerated Ukrainian, Czech, Italian, and Albanian.

Further in the conversation the Source switched over to the situation in the Ukraine and explained free Ukrainians' attitude to the Soviet regime. He mentioned the struggle against the Russification, samvydav, position of genuine Ukrainian communists for whom, incidentally, the Yugoslav system and in particular Yugoslav nationalities policy, remain an example they aspire to, also. Both, Ukrainians in the West and in the Ukraine are also aware of the troubles Yugoslavs had had with Russians, and among other things, <sup>Source</sup> mentioned establishment of the "Revolutionary Communist Party of Yugoslavia" in Kiev.

Bosko Jovic was rather reserved in the beginning, he preferred to listen, but after a while somewhat warmed up. He said that he fully understood all the problems mentioned by the Source but at the same time he had to place them in the context of wider international questions. According to Jovic it was Yugoslavia's firm policy to live in peace with

all countries and at the same time to strive for progress in the entire world. It is no secret that Washington and Moscow divided among themselves, and agreed upon, their spheres of influence. Washington was notified by Moscow about the forthcoming invasion of the Soviet Army and her "allies" in the CSSR, just like Moscow was informed by Washington about the recent invasion of American Army into Cambodia. Neither can be justified. Also American war in Vietnam cannot be justified. This is a genuine liberation war on the part of Vietnamese people and Americans have nothing to do there. The same applies to other foreign forces.

Yugoslavia has a treaty with the Soviet Union guaranteeing each others sovereignty. Of course, the Yugoslav government is aware of some attempts abroad to organize a league of communists and if the Soviet Government would continue to disrespect the treaty, the other side should also act accordingly.

Contacts between peoples are desired because they are conducive to mutual progress. All people should live in peace and all people should enjoy equal rights.

Jovic would welcome establishment of contacts between Yugoslavs and Ukrainians in Canada and the USA, even formation of some clubs also. He was sure that his compatriots would welcome such an idea.

As to situation of Ukrainians in Yugoslavia he fully approved his Government's nationalities policy. At the same time he admitted that the Yugoslav press was writing relatively little about Ukrainian affairs and this was not right.

Jovic also showed interest in Dziuba's book and Source promised to send him "Internationalism or Russification?" and other samvydav materials.

2. At the end the conference was also joined by the President of the Society ~~Iskraj~~ Isjelenika Cedo Kapor of Beograd, Ruzveltova 18. The conversation continued around same topics. It was crowned by an interview given by our Source to "Osvobodzenije", a group photograph, and slivovica. They parted in a very friendly atmosphere.

Both, Mehmedbasic and Kapor, were ~~xxx~~ <sup>not so</sup> stiff in their comments as Jovic, and the latter also remarkably changed in the course of <sup>the</sup> conference which lasted for over two hours.