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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS  
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APO 512, U.S. ARMY

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION.-

SUBJECT: Great Communist Party.

From a confidential source originating in Paris the following information on the Great Communist Party of Jugoslavia has been submitted to this Agent. The report covers a short history of the ~~party~~ <sup>party</sup> and its present position in Croatia.

Before the war, the Communist Party, forbidden in Jugoslavia, existed in Croatia, but counted very few adherents. Although it is difficult to have an exact idea of its importance (it was forced to cover its activities because of the threat of arrest) it seems that a percentage of 2 % indicates the entire proportion of communists in the entire Great population. The party recruited its adherents <sup>from industrial workers</sup> because it was never able to convert the peasant masses of the Great Peasant Party to the Communist ideals.

Its activity, however, was intense and the government newspapers of the time of JEFFITCH and VELJA POPOVITCH made believe several times that it actually lead the Great national movement directed by MACEK.

After 1936, the Party tried to organize a "common front" or "popular front" to include the opposition parties (the Socialist Party being non-existent at the time and entirely repudiated in Croatia). The Croats violently opposed it because it dealt with the Government in Belgrade and because in Croatia nearly all of its leaders were not Croats. Attempts to cooperate with the Great Peasant Party were made impossible by the leaders of the C.P.P. who desired to see the labor movement join with the C.P.P. and be absorbed by it.

The great objection put up by the Croat masses against the Communists besides the question of ideology, was the fact that the Communist leaders were not Croat and the Croat followers let themselves be led by and receive orders from these non-Croats.

It is useless to recall or retell the activity of the Communists during the war. In Croatia they were the promoters of the active resistance against the Germans, the Italians, and the "Ustachi".

At the present time the members of the Communist Party are naturally more numerous than previously. It seems that besides the "pure ones" of pre-war times, a mass of opportunists (of whom many were staunch Royalists), ardent "Ustachis" who are always ready to back up those who are in power for obvious reasons and others of the same kind have stuck like parasites to the movement. It is in fact undebatable that, if the majority of original Communists, known as such, have remained sincere and entirely devoted to the cause, leading a simple (and often difficult) life, that does not mean that the neo-Communists who, affecting an exuberant marxist enthusiasm, profit of whatever office may be available, of all the financial, clothing and subsistence advantages that their present position permits them to acquire. People like Anka BERUS, Finance Minister, arrested several times in Dalmatia for his Communist leanings, Vladimir BAKARIĆ, President of the Great Federal Government, Vico KRSTULOVIC, a Split worker known for his Communist activities before 1941, are honest and respected, living very modestly in spite of the importance of their positions. On the other hand one is astonished at the luxury displayed by certain Secretaries of the Ministers, of the various organizations of the Party, previously sincere "royalists", holders of official positions, generally well paid, who went over to the Communists in the latter stages of the struggle and who at present are noted as strong advocates of the Communist Government. Besides, many, to prove their sincerity, and perhaps to make people forget their past, show an eagerness which lead to such mistakes the results of which can only be detrimental to the present regime.

The growing number of bargains and grafts contested for amongst the important members of the Syndicates of the Party, were violently denounced by Marco BELINIC, President of the Great Syndicates, in his New Year's speech (1946), who accused the majority of the personnel of the State organizations of being rotten.

How much can the regime depend upon these wars in Croatia above all in a period of political crisis? Do the Authorities realize exactly the situation of the pre-governmental parties in this important Federal State? One can conclude by saying that already a

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small number of true communists, previously the backbone of the Party are anxiously asking of themselves how the situation is to evolve and and suffering a certain uneasiness about their own Party. A certain number among them have even refused important positions which were offered them. Finally it can be mentioned that the life of the Communist Party in Croatia remains secret, and that there have not as yet been held any Communist meetings, excepting those organized by the National Front.

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