YUGOSLAVIA

1. GENERAL

2. MATERIAL TAKEN FROM MR. ACKERMANN'S FILES
Secretary of State
Washington

380, January 31, 3 p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's 148, January 26, 2 p.m.
to Rome.

Actually some 3500 Yugoslavs were repatriated from camps in Italy at Tito's request. Impossible to ascertain number of Jews involved since the movement was made in great haste and only imperfect documents were available.

At present time camps are maintained as before to be used as reserves for other displaced persons and no camps have been vacated completely. Authorities here are interested to know how the report originated that stateless persons from outside Italy would be accommodated in these camps since no such plan to move these people to one particular spot has yet been formulated.

KIRK

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perle Date SEP 13 1972
The cable below for Kirk is from Refugee Board.

The following item appeared in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bulletin, December 18, 1944:

QUOTE 1,000 YUGOSLAV JEWS RETURNED HOME FROM CAMPS IN ITALY AT TITO'S REQUEST — ROME, Dec. 17 (JTA) — Approximately 1,000 Jews are among 6,000 to 7,000 Yugoslavs who have recently been returned from relief camps in Italy to their homeland at the request of Marshal Tito. Stateless persons and refugees from Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and northern Italy will be placed in the camps vacated by the Yugoslavs. Maximum use will probably be made of the camps only after the liberation of northern Italy. At present, only a few stateless persons are being moved there from camps in central Italy. UNQUOTE

Will you kindly investigate and advise the Board of the correctness of this item and furnish us with any other relevant information pertaining thereto.

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR KIRK, AMBASSADORE BONN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR
REFUGEE BOARD.

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Bulletin, December 18, 1944:

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in the camps vacated by the Yugoslav. Maximum will probably
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from camps in central Italy UNQUOTE

Will you kindly investigate and advise the Board of the
correctness of this item and furnish us with any other relevant
information pertaining thereto.

Miss Chasacey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akins, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston,
Hadel, Marks, McCormack, Fehlen, Files.

PJMccormack 1/24/45

A080434
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Will you kindly investigate and advise the Board of the correctness of this item and furnish us with any other relevant information pertaining thereto.

PJM/GERMACKIE -- 1/24/45
20 OF 12,000 JEWS ALIVE IN BELGRADE

1,000 Fled Systematic Murder and Torture by Germans—Children Were Hanged

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Nov. 17 (Reuter)—Of the 12,000 Jews in Belgrade before the war, about twenty remain alive in the city today. About 1,000 escaped.

The writer heard from survivors the terrible story of the annihilation of their people by the Germans.

Their venerable leader, whose name cannot be disclosed since he has relatives who are still interned, escaped by taking on a Serbian name and being hidden by Serbian friends. For two years he remained hidden in a bank in the center of Belgrade. When the building was struck by Nazi bombs during the American attack on Easter Sunday he fled to a village and remained there until the liberation.

Eyewitnesses described how the Germans, as soon as they reached Belgrade, sent lorries to collect all valuables from Jewish shops and houses. In July, 1941, the methodical extermination of Belgrade Jews began.

A meeting of all Jews was called in the center of the capital. They were classified according to profession. Every fifth man in each group was taken to the Janjaca rifle range and shot.

Every time a man was killed in Belgrade 500 or 600 Jews were called by the police. The next day their clothes were sent back to their relatives.

When men became scarce, women and children were ordered to present themselves, bringing the keys of their flats, with their names and addresses. They were then driven off in lorries to Zemun. Although they knew they were going to certain death they sang as they went. Serbian women in the streets wept.

At Zemun thousands of women and children were shot up without food or fuel in multistory buildings intended for the Belgrade fair. The women were driven by day to Zemun airfield to clear snow from runways. Every morning fifty to sixty bodies were carried from the camp.

Worst of all was the deliberate torture. Drunken soldiers entered the camp in the middle of the night and ordered the women to dress. They were made to bow before gallows and ordered to say prayers. After hours of agony, they were told “We didn’t bring you tonight.” The prisoners were kept in a state of constant fear. Women and children were hanged at the slightest provocation. Many went mad. The camp was filled with screams.

Later the Germans brought to the camp a sealed lorry, with the exhaust pipe leading into it, packed with Jews and drove it to Janjaca. When the doors were opened only dead bodies fell out.

Many thousands of Hungarian Jews were taken by the Germans to work in the copper mines at Bar in Yugoslavia. Those who escaped are now coming to Belgrade. They arrive starving, naked, and covered with wounds from beatings.

The Belgrade Jews, who have lost everything, are trying to help, but appeal to the Jewish communities of London and New York to send instant help, money, food, and clothing.
Only 20 Jews Left In Belgrade
Out Of 12,000 At War’s Start

BY HUBERT HARRISON

Belgrade, Nov. 17 (Reuters)—Of
the 12,000 Jews in Belgrade before
the war only some 20 remain alive
in the city today. Only about 1,000
came out alive.

I heard from a small band of sur
vivors the terrible story of the an
ihilation of their people by the
Germans.

The venerable leader, whose
name cannot be disclosed as he has
relatives who are still interned, es-
aped by taking on a Serbian
name and being hidden by Serbian
friends.

For two years he remained hid-
den in a back in the very center of
Belgrade. When the building was
struck by four bombs during the
American raid on Easter Sunday he
hid to a village and remained there
until the liberation.

Scientific Extermination

Eyewitnesses described to me
how, as soon as the Germans
reached Belgrade, they sent lorries
to collect all valuables from Jew-
ish shops and houses.

In July, 1941, the scientific ex-
termination of the Belgrade Jews
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They were arranged according to
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group was taken to the Janitsa rifle
camp and shot.

Every time a German was killed
in Belgrade, two or three hundred
Jews were called up by the police.
The next day their clothes were
sent back to their relatives.

Women, Children Next

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present themselves, bringing the
keys of their flats with their names
and addresses.

The women and children were
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Although they knew they were
going to certain death they hung as
they went. Serbian women in the
streets wept at their courage.

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in midwinter without food and
without fuel.

Many Go Mad

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to Zemun airfields to clear the
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and ordered the women to dress.

They were made to bow before
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Then they were driven to Zemun
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and ordered to say prayers.

The prisoners were kept in a
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Jews Packed-In Sealed Lorry

Later the Germans brought a
sealed lorry with the exhaust pipe
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it with Jews and drove it to Jan-
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dren.
Dispatched: May 20, 1944.


Dated: May 19, 1944.

Received: May 22, 1944.

The following is the text of a communication no. 1737 of May 15, 1944 from the Royal Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

"Referring to the Aide-memoire of the Embassy of the United States of America dated March 31, 1944, concerning the aid to the victims of enemy oppression, the Royal Yugoslav Ministry for Foreign Affairs have the honor to inform that the Royal Yugoslav Government have taken on May 10, 1944, the following decisions:

'The Royal Yugoslav Government with pleasure acknowledge the executive order issued by the President of the United States of America on January 22, 1944, in which the President of United States stated that it is the policy of the United States to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

'The Royal Yugoslav Government agree with the above expressed policy and are ready to cooperate in every action on that question.'

'The Yugoslav diplomatic representatives and other organizations have received instructions to give all possible aid to the allied and international bodies concerned with the question of war refugees."

MacVeagh
TO Miss Hodel
FROM Mrs. Schwartz

The following are excerpts from the January 1944 report of the Finance Sub-Commission:

17. Exchange of Yugoslav Currency

Within the first fifteen days of the month the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission brought several thousand refugees from Yugoslavia, processed them, and distributed them in camps, and billets throughout the four provinces. The Displaced Persons Sub-Commission requested us to consider the establishment of exchange facilities to enable the refugees to convert dinars into lire and thus reduce the evacuation costs. In view of the implications of the establishment of a dinar-lire rate and its impact upon other rates, and bearing in mind that relief expenditures for Yugoslav refugees have been charged to the Italian Government since our occupation, the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission was advised that we have no authority to establish such exchange facilities and that the problem has been referred to MOS for their views. MOS requested the opinion of GCS on the matter, and GCS has now asked for more information, including amounts and types of the dinar currency held by the refugees. We are attempting to secure this information from the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.

23. Displaced Persons Imprest Account

Having brought several thousand refugees from Yugoslavia into Italy, the Displaced Persons and Refugees Sub-Commission found that there were not adequate civilian or military medical facilities to care for these persons.

The Finance Sub-Commission provided the necessary financial aid by establishing an imprest account of 100,000 lire. The Displaced Persons Sub-Commission has agreed to detail an officer to maintain records of drawings on this account. The Finance Sub-Commission will prescribe the type of accounts to be kept.
January 12, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle
Foreign Funds Control
U. S. Treasury Department
Sloan Building - 12th & G Streets
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sure you will be interested in the enclosed report on what has happened to the Jews of Yugoslavia and the cable, likewise enclosed, which came to this country.

I hope to be in Washington next week and shall arrange to see you.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

Serving in the Armed Forces of the United States
Survey of the situation of the Jews in Yugoslavia

1). Before the outbreak of the war there were about 75,000 to 80,000 Jews in Yugoslavia. The distribution of the Jewish population was approximately as follows:

- Serbia and South-Serbia: 20,000
- Croatia: 25,000
- Bosnia, Dalmatia: 12,000
- Vojvodina Backa: 12,000
- Banat: 6,000
- Total: 70,000

To this number must be added several thousand refugees in the various centers and in some camps of which Schabets was the most important.

Two thirds of the Yugoslav Jews were Ashkenazim; one third Sephardim.

The extermination of the Yugoslav Jews started after the outbreak of the war against Yugoslavia and was carried through very systematically.

2). Immediately after the occupation the most severe anti-Jewish measures were taken against the Jews in Belgrad. Shortly after that the most inhuman concentration camp was set up on the exhibition grounds where all Jews of Belgrad and Serbia were interned. Here the Jews were systematically annihilated and the few who remained alive were deported in the beginning of 1943.

We have little information about the fate of the leading personalities. There were rumors that Dr. Friedrich Pops, the president of the Gemeindeverband and Vice-President of the Zionist Landesorganisation is somewhere under arrest; it has also been said that he is in an insane asylum. Schime Spicer, the Secretary General of the Gemeindeverband and Samuelo Desano, President of the "Keren HaYesod" were sentenced to death and shot immediately after America entered the war. They were accused of maintaining contact with the United States, an accusation which was based on their relationship with JDD. A few others succeeded in escaping, as for instance Chief Rabbi Dr. Joak Alkelay and the famous Urologist and Court physician Dr. Leon Koen. It has been related that the President of the Bnei Brith, Dr. Suke Pijade is somewhere under arrest.
The short but bloody and bestial war of extermination waged against the Yugoslav Jews was started under the false accusation that the Jews had organized the coup d'etat which eliminated the regime of prince Paul and Gavr Doyle, under which Yugoslavia had joined the Three Powers Pact. It is true that the Jews had greeted this political change with great enthusiasm.

In the spring there were no Jews left in Serbia and in the Banat, with the exception of a small number who went to the mountains to join the partisans, or are hiding with good and brave Serbian friends.

It must be pointed out that the Serbs did not participate in the extermination of the Jews, it was solely the work of the gestapo.

3) The Jews of Croatia, Bosnia and South Serbia shared the same fate.

The Jews of Croatia and Bosnia, led by the progressive communities of Zagreb and Sarajevo, were exterminated in the most bestial manner over a period of two years. Here, the annihilation process was slower than in Serbia but not less thorough. Several concentration camps were set up - Jasenovac, Stara Gradiška, Ljubljana, Dukovo (for women and children) - where the Jews, like in Serbia, were interned without any explanation, or with the explanation that they favor a Yugoslavian state, which means that they are against Croatia. A very great number of them perished from hunger, cold, disease, forced labor and torture.

All provincial towns as Osijek, Vinkovci, Sisak, Varazdin, Ruma, Gradiska, where at the time large Jewish communities had existed, were made "Judenrein". All Jews were deported to Poland between May and August 1942.

A very small number of Jews remained in Zagreb and conducted the relief work until the beginning of 1943, under the direction of the aged and self-sacrificing Dr. Hugo Kohn, who had been the President of the community for many years, the young gifted rabbi Dr. Schalom Freiberg, and a few others. They assisted a few hundred Jews, mostly old people and invalids, and about 1000 Jews who were still in the remaining two camps. In the beginning of May 1943, the last Jews were deported from Zagreb, they were about 400, together with the above
named leaders of the community. At present, according to a letter from Zagreb dated June 15th, a small number of "Geschuetzte Juden" (protected Jews) are still in the city. Under the leadership of Ascher Hirschky and Dr. Robert Glueckstahl, they try to alleviate the misery of their coreligionists wherever possible.

Please find enclosed copy of the Zagreb Jewish Community, dated June 15, 1943. A relatively large number of the leading personalities are, for the moment, safe in Italy. Among them is the President of the Zionist Landesorganisation who is really the spiritual leader of Skrvena Yougoslav Jewry, Dr. Alexander Licht, as well as Dr. Max Fuchsboff, Alex Klein, Dr. Dragi Rosenberg, Rikard Kahn, Dr. Siga Neumann and many others. Dr. Nicola Talmann and Dr. Leon Peric are still interned. Hans Hochsinger, Dr. Marko Bauer, Dr. Benno Stein, Dr. Lovoslak Schuk, Dr. Ignat Lang, Lovoslav Steiner, Felix Reum, Dr. Richard Rosner and many, many others are dead.

4). In the territory occupied by Hungary, which was given the name of "Backo", there lived formerly about 12,000 Jews. The Jewish center was Novi-Sad (Hungarian Ujvidék), situated at the Danube River, where in January 1944 the most terrible massacre of Jews took place. About 1600 Jews were slain. The same thing happened in the little town of Stari Betchej and in the villages of Zalaj, Tchurug, Tenerin, Titel, Gjurdovo, Gospodinci, Srbevan etc. They were killed under the pretext that they were no patriots but Zionists and Yougoslavs. Furthermore, about 5000 Jews were sent from this territory to military forced labor in the Ukraine. There is hope that a large number of them did not actually freeze to death, or die while cleaning the mines, but that they were taken prisoners by the Russians. I enclose a brief description.

5). From the various parts of Yougoslawia, especially from Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia, thousands of Jews escaped to Italy. About 12,000 to 13,000 Yougoslavian Jews are said to be in Italy, among them a considerable number of children.
6. In South Serbia (Bitelj, Skoplje) there were living about 8,000 Jews. In April 1943 the Bulgarians deported them to an unknown destination. Their leaders, Leon Kashi, (Vice-President of both the communities and the Zionist organisations) Josef Behar, Leon Cohen and all others shared the same fate. When public opinion in Bulgaria protested against the deportations, it was silenced by the controlled press which asserted that those Jews were not Bulgarians but only Yugoslav Jews.

7. A group of Jewish intellectuals are still alive as they are German prisoners of war. This group consists of 400 reserve officers from all parts of Yugoslavia. Most of them are in Osnabrueck-Eversheide, Oflag VI-C. Among them are David Alkalaj, Aron Alkalaj, David Maschiyah, Dr. Albert Weiss, Dr. Josef Tinni, Adolf Rothmueller, Dr. Arthur Hollander, Maxx Weiss etc. etc. We endeavor to help these prisoners of war with food packages, but do not know how successful we actually are since we understand that the Germans discriminate between Jews and non-Jews when distributing the parcels.

8. Several thousand refugees of different European countries (who had fled to Yugoslavia before the war) disappeared like their Yugoslav coreligionists, without leaving a trace.

9. In Palestine there are about 1000 Yugoslav Jews who are not refugees but immigrated before the war in order to help in the building of the country. Among them are Dr. Joel Rosenberger, Dr. Leon Steindler and Dr. Meier Weissmann, who as members of the Landeskomitee of the Gemeindeverband and the Zionist Landesverband, founded a Committee of Yugoslavian Jews, in collaboration with other leading Yugoslav personalities as Mrs. Rosa Steindler, Law Stern, Dr. Zvi Rothmueller, Julius Fischer, Jakir Eventov, Dr. Juda Altmann, David Krasey, Hillel Livni, Leon Sandel and others. The task of this committee is the organization of the rescue and relief of the Yugoslav Jews, as well as the safe guarding of their interests.

The widow of our Schima Spitzer and two of her children are also in Palestine. The third child disappeared in Belgrad.
10. According to our estimates there are a few hundred Yugoslav Jews in the United States. Among them are the above mentioned Dr. Issach Alkalay, Director Otto Heinrich, member of the Landeskomitee of the Gemeindeverband, Dr. Karl Flasch, President of the community of Sisak, Dr. Pavle Neuberger and others.

11. It appears from a brief survey that about one fourth of the Yugoslav Jews i.e. 20,000 are still alive. A great number of those who today can still be considered saved, are in Italy, where there are about 12-15,000 Jews. Their final rescue is an urgent task of the present hour.

We Yugoslav Jews hope that the relief organizations will participate with the greatest energy in this rescue work. Our endeavors and those of the Jewish Agency cannot have the anticipated results without the immediate and very energetic assistance and collaboration of the Joint and the Haganah.

Several hundred Palestine certificates for Jewish and Zionest social workers and their families were not used. These Jewish leaders "veteran Zionists" have been working for decades for the welfare of their coreligionists. The Jewish Agency also made available a large number of certificates for the rescue of our children, but there is not yet open, at present, from Italy to Palestine. We think that with the aid of the Jewish Agency and the JDC a route, via Spain, Portugal and Switzerland could be found, but it must be found before it is too late.

12. Before closing this report, I would like to appeal again to the great relief organizations. We, the Yugoslav Jews claim and request the same amount of help which we used to give at the time when we were still active in the rescue and relief work.

Istanbul, August 27, 1943

Signed
Dr. Meier Weismann

mf
Translation

ROYAL YUGOSLAV EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A. Br. 1964

December 16, 1943.

Association of Yugoslav Jews in the United States, Inc.
381 Fourth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

The Royal Embassy has received from the Royal Legation in Lisbon cable of the following contents:

"FOR YUGOSLAV JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE STOP HICEM LISBON SENT TO HIAS NEW YORK ON NOVEMBER 24 LIST OF OUR REFUGEES WHO ESCAPED FROM ITALY INTO SWITZERLAND STOP MEANTIME SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHER REFUGEES ARRIVED THROUGH MOUNTAINS STOP UPON RECEIPT WILL SEND SUPPLEMENTARY Lists FOR WHICH I HAVE ASKED STOP MANY UNHAPPY FAMILIES ILL WOMEN CHILDREN ELDERLY PERSONS IMPLORE BE SAVED AND RELEASED FROM CAMPS DEPOSIT GUARANTEE OF 1700 SWISS FRANCS PER PERSON FOR SIX MONTHS MAINTENANCE STOP RECOMMEND INTERVENTION HIAS OR JOINT OR OUR GOVERNMENT FOR OBTENTION NECESSARY GUARANTEE AT LEAST FOR REFUGEES IN VERY URGENT CASES STOP SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS BY HICEM HERE ALREADY SENT STOP ACCORDING MY LATEST INFORMATION SEVERAL THOUSAND OUR REFUGEES FROM DALMATIA AND DALMATIAN ISLANDS SUCCEEDED BE TRANSFERRED BY SMALL BOATS TO BARI AND OTHER PLACES IN ITALY LIBERATED BY OUR ALLIES STOP THEY REQUESTING HELP STOP I REQUESTED OUR GOVERNMENT AND MILICVIC TO TRY OBTAIN AND SEND ME LIST OF THEIR NAMES STOP CONSIDER NECESSARY AND USEFUL YOU TAKE INTEREST TO HELP THEM THEREFORE RECOMMEND REQUEST OUR GOVERNMENT PERMISSION THAT A DELEGATE BE SENT THERE STOP I AM IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH AND AM KEEPING INFORMED MINISTER MIROSEVIC LONDON ALSO IN MATTERS OF OUR REFUGEES STOP DEPARTURE OF STEAMER FOR PALESTINE POSTPONED FOR JANUARY STOP REQUEST FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION OF MY LENGTHY CABLE THROUGH CONSULATE NEW YORK REGARDING MY EXPENSES BECAUSE OTHERWISE IMPOSSIBLE WORK AS NO ONE WILL OR IS EXPECTED TO PAY THESE EXPENSES"

DR SIMA ADANJA

This communication is conveyed to you for your information and guidance.

By order of the Ambassador,

(signed) Ivan Franges, Counsellor
Marshal Tito has given his first interview to Joseph
Norton, correspondent for the Associated Press, some time ago.
Mr. Norton sent a list of questions to Marshal Tito through his
representatives in Italy. He sent out his replies, signed, in a
large, bold hand, "J. J. Tito, marshal of Yugoslavia." Here are the
questions and answers.

Q: In what way could the U.S.A., Great Britain and the Soviet
Union increase the material help to the National Liberation
Army, the National Committee of Liberation and to the people of Yugoslavia?

Tito: To help the National Liberation Army today means
without doubt to help the nation of Yugoslavia to reach at the
earliest their national freedom. It means, at the same time, to speed
the victory of the Allies against the common enemy. For that reason
the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia is trying to get
from the Allies, before everything else, the armaments, ammunition,
medical supplies and food for the army. We are getting this help
regularly. Considering the number and necessities of our army this
help is far from being sufficient. Naturally, the reason for this is
first of all the technical difficulties of transport. On the other hand,
in order to equip the NLA with the armament which would enable them
to fight on equal terms with a much stronger enemy, we need first
of all tanks, and anti-tank guns. I hope that with the help of the
Alies we shall soon get over this insufficiency in our armament.

Secondly, we need our own air force, capable of dealing with
our special tactical tasks, in order to take part in the combined
operations on the battlefield. It has been arranged that this
measurably will be overcome. Our army has a sufficient number of
personnel for the land and air crews, so there is no problem of
personnel. I am taking this occasion to stress that the Allied air
forces, with its activity in Yugoslavia, considerably helps in our
fight against the enemy.

Regarding immediate help for the civilians, the first
problem today is food in the devastated areas of our liberated
territory. In certain very badly plundered places hunger has already
started among the population which will last until the next harvest
time. But even the new harvest will not entirely solve this problem
of food for our army and civilians. Although the people's government,
which is represented in the local National Liberation Committees,
took all measures to make this year's harvest the richest possible,
it was not possible to do everything that was necessary. The reason
for this is the shortage of seeds, shortage of cattle and agricultural
machinery which has been plundered by the enemy.

The peoples of Yugoslavia have every right to expect help
from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.
The charter of UNRRA says that help will be given immediately after
the liberation. But look, here we have in Europe a liberated territory
of 120,000 square kilometers, on which 5,000,000 people
are living. These people, with their own forces and enormous sacrifices,
have liberated themselves from the enemy, have created the army which
is defending with arms this liberated territory, have formed their
national democratic government, have looted their peoples' represent-
atives and have their own national government. These people need
urgent help. But they do not even have their own representatives on
UNRRA because the National Committee of Liberation is not juridically
recognised. As a result of this situation, the people of Yugoslavia
and the National Liberation Army are suffering, and basically
cannot do anything for the liberation of Yugoslavia. After
time, this situation is only making the common allied cause in the
struggle against the enemy. Here is one of the many examples which
point out the necessity for the recognition of the National
Committee of Liberation. For that reason, not only the material help
but also the recognition of the National Committee by the Allies
should be the help which is expected by the peoples of Yugoslavia
and the National Liberation Forces.
Q: How much, in human and material losses, have the NLA and the people of Jugoslavia suffered for the victory over the Axis?

Marshal Tito: The losses suffered by the people of Jugoslavia for the last three years of the war are enormous. The invader, with his policy of systematic annihilation of the civil population, helped by the local traitors, has succeeded in destroying one-twelfth of the entire Jugoslav population. Had there been no NLA, which has saved from annihilation the greater part of the nation, the number of victims of the fascist invader would have been much greater. It is impossible to state the exact number of our dead. The National Committee of Liberation is collecting figures about it.

On the other side we have the victims among the heroic fighters of the National Liberation Army, who have fallen defending their own people and the Mother-Jugoslavia. Altogether, 110,000 fighters of the NLA were killed in three years of war. These victims have not died in vain, because they have given their lives for the struggle which saved hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who would otherwise have been killed by the enemy.

These figures show quite clearly that if we are right when we called the people under arms in 1941, and that the greatest calamity was brought on the nation by those who advised obedience to the invader and collaboration with him, the victims among those who have subjugated themselves are far greater than those who have fallen in the national struggle against the enemy.

Let even approximate figures about the material damage suffered by our people be obtained. In the occupied regions the invaders have plundered everything they could. The enemy is taking away from the people all foodstuffs, leaving them not even the necessary minimum for the maintenance of life. In the liberated territory the situation is quite different. The enemy is succeeding only partly by burning, plundering and destroying in his effort against entering our towns and villages or their great offensive. Hence, in the liberated territory also great material damage has been done. From certain regions we have exact figures about the damage. For instance, in Varaždin, which is one of the poorest regions in Jugoslavia, the enemy succeeded in plundering 4,400 horses, 16,365 cattle, 80,355 sheep, 7,584 pigs, 7,152 wagon loads of foodstuffs, 12,192 wagon loads of forage. This is the situation in Varaždin, our first liberated territory, and no one can imagine what the enemy did in those regions subjected to his rule for the last three years.

During the war the enemy has destroyed and burned down thousands of houses. There are towns in our vast country in which there does not exist a single house, as for instance, Ribnik, Krapina, Zagreb, Osijek, Preko, Zadar, Rijeka, Virovitica and so on. There are almost completely destroyed, such as Starigrad, Varaždin, Plomin, Poreč, Pula, Split, Gömži Milanovec, Krupanj, and so on. Thousands of villages have been burned by the enemy and there is no more trace of them. For instance, in Varaždin, 10,838 houses were destroyed, 14,073 barns and sheds, 356 public buildings and 24 factories. The same has happened in Western and Eastern Slavonia, in Kostajnica and Banovici and so on. Reconstruction of these buildings will be one of the main problems of the post-war rehabilitation of our country.

A very grave problem of post-war reconstruction of the country will be the rebuilding of the industrial and communication centers which were destroyed and are still being destroyed by the NLA in order that they still be useful to the people. Some railway lines are completely out of use. There are a great number of destroyed industries and mines. For instance, in the territory of Varaždin, which is our well-known mining center, not a single big mine is in operating. These objectives, which we set for the national struggle, we shall have to rebuild in the whole country after the liberation. For this rebuilding we will need the help of foreign capital, because we shall not be able to rebuild all that has been destroyed just from our own sources.
Q: What steps have been taken, and how much has been accomplished on the question of the recognition of the National Committee of Liberation by the U.S.A., Great Britain and Russia?

Marshal Tito: Officially and formally, we have not raised the question of the recognition of our NOB, as the sole, legal government of Yugoslavia. On this matter also we kept to our main thought: all our activity must be subordinated to the idea of strengthening our struggle against the invader. Although our NOB was formed in order to strengthen the war effort of our peoples, still we wanted to avoid every possibility of making inconveniences to our allies which might arise by sharp demands for recognition. But we have done everything to inform all our allies about the real situation in Yugoslavia, about our struggle of liberation, and inform them about the real reasons for the formation of the NOB and about the decisions of AWOL (the national committee) on depriving the Yugoslav exiled government of all rights.

The development of events demands that we more often present to the allies the problems with which our people's government is faced, in the interests of the people and our armed forces. The reasons for this are, on the one hand, the ever-increasing harmful activity of the exiled government, and on the other hand, the question of post-war reconstruction and world order for which the Allies are already making preparations. So we have, for example, intervened with the Allies about blocking the bank gold of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, which the exiled government wishes illegally to appropriate and we have asked to be included in the membership of UNRRA.

We have asked that they return to us the warships which the Italians confiscated at the time of the occupation of Yugoslavia. These ships were given to the exiled Yugoslav government and are now in the harbors of Alexandria and Malta instead of being used by us for the defense of our islands. If we had had these ships we should not have lost the Dalmatian Islands, where the Germans succeeded in landing, thanks to the fact that they had a few warships.

In the same way we have asked the Allies to remove from the control of the exiled government the Yugoslav merchant navy, and put it under the control of the NOB of Yugoslavia. We have asked that the money which is paid for the use of these ships should no longer be given to the exiled government which squanders it for its own personal ends, but that this money be put at the disposal of the NOB which would use it for the renewal of the merchant navy and for the improvement of the basic pay of the personnel. Otherwise, the National Committee does not touch the interests of the ship-owners.

Such problems are always increasing, and the circumstances are forcing us to work for complete and de jure recognition of the NOB of Yugoslavia. I think our actions give to our friends in official Allied circles sufficient warrant proof that our actions are guided by the interests of the united goal, the struggle against Hitler's aggression, and that recognition of the NOB will only strengthen the united struggle. So every day the apparently justified reasons for the inconveniences which might arise from our recognition are diminishing.

Q: What is the strength of enemy forces in Yugoslavia? How many German and satellite divisions are there?

Marshal Tito: In Yugoslavia there are still about 14 German divisions, four Bulgarian divisions, about 120,000 to 130,000 Croat Domobrans, legionaries, and Ustashas, about 15,000 followers of Mihailovich, 16,000 Chechotes, 21,000 Ustashas, 12,000 Slovene Domobrans of the quelling Ustashe, and about 10,000 Albanians. Besides these, there are various police troops.
Q. At the second session of AMNOV in November 1943 you announced that the strength of the NLA was 250,000. How much has this increased?

Marshall Tito: From November, 1943, to today some new units of the NLA have been formed, each of them consisting of some divisions.

Q.: After the war will Yugoslavia proceed in achieving complete independence in the international and foreign policy or is there a prospect of her coming under the sphere of influence of some great power or combination of powers?

Marshall Tito: With their participation in the war on the side of the Allies and their contribution to the victory over the common enemy, which has cost us so much sacrifice in blood and material goods, the people of Yugoslavia have achieved the right to arrange for themselves their internal organization and their foreign relations. Besides, this right is guaranteed to them by the Atlantic Charter and the decisions of the Moscow and Tehran Conferences.

The experience of the past shows how much and how dearly the peoples of Yugoslavia have paid because foreign powers have meddled in the organization of their foreign and internal policy. Marshall leading to international complications, conflicts and finally war. With the aim, besides a national equality of rights, democratic freedom, material prosperity, and guaranteeing lasting peace for the peoples of Yugoslavia, the National Liberation Movement of Yugoslavia, taught by the difficult past, will struggle with all its strength against the intervention of foreign powers in the organization of the internal and foreign politics of Yugoslavia.

Our experience and success in the present struggle give us the right to say that the peoples of Yugoslavia will succeed in this. This statement is also justified by the fact that the Allies today already envisage a democratic, federalist Yugoslavia, not only as an important factor in the struggle for the final destruction of German Fascism, but also in the post-war organization of Southeast Europe on the healthy basis of mutually respecting peoples and friendly cooperation for the reconstruction of devastated Europe. Tied with friendly links to her Allies, democratic, federalist Yugoslavia will also, as I believe, fulfill with honor this post-war role.

In its foreign policy the government of the new federalist Yugoslavia will work with all its forces to maintain the best allied relations with the three great allies, England, the Soviet Union and America. The support of those three great powers will be as necessary to the new Yugoslavia in peace as it is in this war.

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APPENDIX I

Particular Vessels Awaiting Repairs

1. M/V Jadran
2. M/V Velobit - Ist
3. M/V Galeb
4. M/V Danica
5. M/V Hrvat
6. M/V Sv. Trojica
7. M/V Sv. Ante
8. M/V Sokol
9. M/V Frankopan
10. M/V Sv. Nikola
11. M/V Sv. Ivan
12. M/V Omledino
13. M/V Sloboda
14. M/V Tomislav
15. M/V Ites
16. M/V Kapa
17. M/V Nirvana
18. M/V Sofija
19. M/V Iztok
20. M/V Radnik
21. M/V Ljubljana Majka
22. M/V Danica Krilo
23. M/V Malinska
24. M/V Devorin
25. M/V Ugajan
26. M/V Groppa od Karmela
27. M/V Ne Zden
28. M/V Devin
29. M/V Sveceno
30. M/V Sv. Ante
31. M/V Groppa od Pojsana
32. M/V Zvonimir
33. M/V Mladen
34. M/V Nada
35. M/V Sv. Petar
36. M/V Boze Pomori
37. M/V Pravedan
38. M/V Groppa i Boze Pomori
39. M/V Marija M.
40. M/V Andjeo
41. M/V Providnost
42. M/V Sv. Ivan
43. M/V Maryk I
44. M/V Sv. Josip - Krilo
45. M/V Sv. Josip - Slano
46. M/V Slaven Josip
47. M/V Tri Druga
48. M/V Sreko
49. M/V Jadran - Priboj
50. M/V Marija
51. M/V Otoce Vladimir
52. M/V Tomislav - Jelsa
53. M/V Zrinski
54. M/V Dva Druga
55. M/V Sv. Marko
56. M/V Dva Brata
57. M/V Zvonimir
58. M/V Sv. Josip - Jugurda
59. M/V Issa i Marija
60. M/V Zemlja
61. M/V Boze Amelija
62. M/V Antica
63. M/V Bodulaij
64. M/V Marija S.
65. M/V Gusar
66. M/V Ston
67. M/V Dubao
68. M/V Radnik
69. M/V Sitnica

Total List of Vessels in Service of Jugoslav

1. M/V Senga
2. M/V Srbina
3. M/V Solin
4. M/V Dubaj
5. M/V Makarska
6. M/V Ljubljana
7. M/V Gorica
8. M/V Celje
9. M/V Sitnica
10. M/V Sitnica ex R.M.
11. M/V Ston
12. M/V Zad
13. M/V Radnik
14. M/V Kupari
15. M/V Getina
16. M/V Pastre
17. M/V Tomislav
18. M/V Jadran
19. M/V Ban Jelacic
20. M/V Otoce Peter
21. M/V Darzko
22. M/V Hrvat
23. M/V Orjen
24. M/V Velobit - Ist
25. M/V Danica - Ist
26. M/V Sreko
27. M/V Pravedan
28. M/V Groppa i Boze Pomori
29. M/V Marija M.
30. M/V Andjeo
31. M/V Providnost
32. M/V Sv. Ivan
33. M/V Maryk I
34. M/V Sv. Josip - Krilo
35. M/V Sv. Josip - Slano
36. M/V Slaven Josip
37. M/V Tri Druga
38. M/V Boze Pomori
39. M/V Marija
40. M/V Otoce Vladimir
41. M/V Tomislav - Jelsa
42. M/V Zrinski
43. M/V Dva Druga

Total: 56 vessels
26. M/V Sloboda
27. * Sofija
28. * Frankoren
29. * Sv. Ivan - K. Lukic
30. * Gamelinac
31. * Nirvana
32. * Nita
33. * Sv. Anton Pedovanski
34. * Anton
35. * Moreva
36. * Providnost - Ist
37. * Marun
38. * Neznam
39. * Mary
40. * Kupa
41. * Isetok
42. * Ljubljena Majka
43. * Rudnik
44. * Sv. Trojica
45. * Sokol
46. * Sv. Ante - Radice
47. * Marija - Sobra
48. * Malinska
49. * Mira
50. * Ugljan
51. * Gospa od Karmena
52. * Danica - Krilo
53. * Deva
54. * Dva
55. * Stlca
56. * Sv. Anto - Razorice
57. * sv. M. - Krilo
58. * Istarska
59. * Uljanka
60. * Zunuri
61. * Davorin
62. * sv. Ante - Padovanski
63. * Zvonimir - Podgora
64. * sv. Josip - Sutivan
65. * Iman i Marija - Krilo
66. * Zmaj
67. * Rosa Amelija
68. * Antica
69. * Rodilj - Krilo
70. * Marija - I. - Krilo
71. * Nade - Rogac
72. * Dinka
74. * Gospa Brace - Vrbovska
75. * Zdrava Marija - Krilo
76. * Branko
77. * Branko
78. * Zdrujila
79. * Branko
80. * Branko
81. M/V Sv. Marko
82. Dva
83. Zvonimir - Podgora
84. Sv. Josip - Sutivan
85. Iman i Marija - Krilo
86. Zmaj
87. Rosa Amelija
88. Antica
89. Rodilj - Krilo
90. Marija - I. - Krilo
91. Nade - Rogac
92. Dinka
94. Gospa Brace - Vrbovska
95. Zdrava Marija - Krilo
96. Branko
97. Branko
98. Zdrujila
99. Branko
100. Ban Berislavac
101. Mr Vani
102. Srce Isusove
103. Branka Brevica - Krilo
104. Marijan
105. Libeccio
106. Ulesare
107. Maryk
108. Polaeca
109. Gesar
110. M/V Salonia
111. * Annunziata Madre
112. * Milino
113. * Antonio Maliina
114. * West
115. S/S Sellinge
116. * Jankey
117. S/S Empire Tern
118. * Salvage Duke
119. * Salvage Prince

Allied Vessels with full or partial Partisan crews

Note: Information in this Appendix is as of 23 April 1944.
Yugoslavia

BY STOYAN PŘÍBÍCHOVÍCH AND JOHN TALBOT

Maj General Tito's headquarters, May 6: This is the first dispatch written by allied correspondents from inside Hitler's European Fortress. From Marshal Tito's headquarters somewhere in the Yugoslav mountains we are now witnessing Yugoslavia's fight for freedom and are first allied correspondents to report the war from behind the enemy lines. The four of us, two journalists and two cameramen, arrived here two days ago as representatives of the entire American and British press. The journalists are Stojan Příbichovích, an American of Time-Life-Fortune magazine, and John Talbot, a Britisher of Reuters. The cameramen are Chief Petty Officer G.B. Fowler, U.S. Navy, formerly photographer for the Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch and Sergeant Max Fowler, former assistant film editor at Pinewood Studios, England.

In a special interview granted for the first time to representatives of the Allied press, Marshal Tito gave the following answers to our 10 questions:

1. How strong is the National Liberation Army now after last winter's sixth German offensive? A.U.: In the period between the sixth offensive and today the majority of our divisions have increased numerically from 10 to 40 per cent besides several new divisions and brigades have been created so that we were able to form more army corps bringing the total up to several army corps.

2. What are the percentages of Serbs, Croats etc. in the National Liberation Army? A.U.: By nationalities the NA is composed of 44 per cent of Serbs, 39 per cent of Croats, 10 per cent of Slovenes, 4 per cent of Montenegrins, 2.5 per cent of Macedonians while various other nationalities including the Italian units make up 6 per cent (if one counts the Montenegrins as Serbs the latter form 39 per cent of the Partisan Army).

3. What are the political parties within the national liberation movement and what parties exert the strongest influence? A.U.: Since Yugoslavia consists of several nationalities and since the political life of almost every Yugoslav province differs from that of the others it is necessary to answer by regions. In Serbia the Liberation Front was formed as early as April 2, 1941, two weeks after the collapse of Yugoslavia, from the following parties: The Communist Party, the Christian Socialist Party, the Sokols (patriotic gymnasium organization), the Social Democratic Party, the Labor unions, the Slovenian Communist Party, the Slovenian Catholic Party under Dr. Anton Becej and some 10 more political groups and organizations. It is significant that the great majority of the Catholic followers of the old Slovenian Catholic Party formerly led by the late Dr. Horosec (a strong anti-Communist) have joined the Liberation Front. To speak of the bigger or smaller influence of this or that party would be incorrect. Of all the mentioned parties and organizations a national movement has been created with a firm organizational front. This movement represents the entire Slovenian people. Even in the occupied Slovenian territory this movement holds power via fact since the popular masses will obey the liberation front rather than the occupation authorities.

In Croatia the liberation movement consists of the whole of the Communist Party, the Croatian Peasant Party and Independent Democratic Party (representing mainly the Serbs of Croatia) which means that the movement embraces the three strongest parties in Croatia.
I should add in this connection that the National Liberation Army is composed predominantly of the peasantry which is largely of the followers of the Croatian Peasant Party and the Independent Democratic Party. Here as in the case of Slovenia one can say that from the mentioned parties' national movement has been created with a firm organizational basis where dictation by any one party is excluded, for the National Liberation Movement has its united program which the members of the Movement not only have adopted but for whose realization they fight with rifles in their hands. The fact, however, should be emphasized here, while the Independent Democratic Party practically in its unity and headed by the majority of its leaders joined the National Liberation Movement in the very beginning, one cannot say the same about the Croatian Peasant Party members of the Croatian Peasant Party. That is, the Croatian peasants joined and are still joining the National Liberation Army against the will of their old leadership headed by Dr. Maksik, Asutic, Formar and others. But within the frames of the National Liberation Movement gradually a new leadership of the Croatian Peasant Party has been formed composed of the best, and to the peasants well-known, Niklo and lower officials of the party, such as Mekvac, Frel, Celi, Skare, Lekus and others. This leadership of the Croatian Peasant Party with its headquarters in the liberated territory enjoys great prestige among the peasantry in occupied territory as well. Besides the most intensive propaganda, including violence, with the aid of terrorist groups and collaboration with the Ustashi, the remaining old reactionary leadership headed by Dr. Maksik has not succeeded in stopping the overwhelming participation of the followers of the Croatian Peasant Party in the National Liberation Movement.

In Serbia, the National Liberation Movement was joined in the beginning by the Communist Party, the left wing of the Democratic Party under Mr. Ivan Babic and the left wing of the Agrarian Party under Dr. Dragoljub Vukanovich as well as by fractions of other parties representing mainly the intelligentsia and the peasantry, in Serbia in spite of all efforts it has not been possible to create a united front of national liberation in which all those parties would participate that in the past founded a democratic front, because practically all the leaders of these parties have either entered the service of the enemy or sought shelter in their retreats waiting for the end of the war, or fled abroad from where for three years they have done everything to make the liberation struggle impossible for the Serbians as well as for the other peoples of Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, the great majority of the Serbian population itself, especially the peasantry and the intelligentsia, have joined the National Liberation Movement. This was evidenced by the intelligentsia and the workers and especially by the young generation in 1941 in Belgrade and in other towns of Serbia where they rose to fight the occupation troops with unheard of heroism and self-sacrifice, defying mass hangings and shootings. Due only to the great strength of the occupation forces and to the tragedy caused by the Ustashe, Pohranac and the Chetniks of Draza Mihailovich the swing of the national uprising in Serbia was arrested in the fall of 1941, but in spite of propaganda and terror the masses of Serbs have remained true to the National Liberation Movement which is being proved at this very moment when new brigades and detachments are being created and are already waging war against superior enemy forces throughout Serbia. I want to remark at this point that the reactionaries and the political speculators who have fled abroad will be much disappointed in their belief that with the aid of Mihailovich they will be able to preserve Serbia until after the war as a base of their reactionary policies and domineering ambitions.
In Macedonia, for the first time in the life of Yugoslavia, the Macedonians, and the Serbs have united to lead a new and different struggle for the liberation of Macedonia and of the other peoples of Yugoslavia as well as the Albanian nations also joining the National Liberation Movement. In Macedonia, in Sanjak and Montenegro with the general uprising of July 13, 1941, a united national liberation movement was created. Regardless of the variety of national and political views, the overwhelming majority of the people of Sanjak and Montenegro take part in this movement and may a handful of traitors serve the enemy. In Vojvodina and Croatia, the National Liberation Movement is characterized in no small part by the entire Serbian population there has joined it. Despite the efforts of Hitler and the Chetniks to find a pretext for war, Vojvodina and Croatia have remained united in the National Liberation struggle.

As for Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is an indivisible national liberation movement was created in the very beginning consisting of a fact. Majority of Serbs and a good deal of Croats, italians and others. Therefore, there is no separate influence of any one political party in any province would be wholly wrong. One can speak only of one single influence in Yugoslavia, the influence of the National Liberation Army. Now the territory under the control of the National Liberation Army has been expanded.

1. How big is the territory under the control of the National Liberation Army today? As you put together the various parts of the liberation territory in the various provinces you can say that one-third of Yugoslavia has been liberated. Even in the occupied territory the detachments and the units of the National Liberation Army are conducting active operations in many points. In Serbia, around Yablanica and Tupiznica we have fought a lengthy stretch of liberated territory over since 1941. Now we are liberating the territory of western Serbia where large units of the National Liberation Army are at this moment engaged in bitter fighting against the United Germans, Bulgars, Bulchic's troops and Milosevic's Chetniks.

2. Do you expect a new German offensive or a gradual German withdrawal from Yugoslavia, and is there a strategic plan of cooperation with the Allies at the time of the invasion of Balkan? After fifteen days since the Germans, the Chetniks and their helpers started an offensive in Eastern Bosnia, Montenegro and Sanjak, a few days ago an enemy offensive began in Macedonia and on the Tupiznica sector in Serbia the enemy began offensive operations also. Like Drasovica and other strongpoints of Yugoslavia, in Montenegro and in Sanjak the Germans and the Chetniks have been completely routed and we have recaptured all of the territory which they had taken in their first impetus. In Serbia the fighting is still going on. The Germans are still able to conduct offensive operations on several sectors of the front in Yugoslavia but not in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole. For the latter job the Germans do not need in the country as a whole.

3. What is the extant of the Balkan-American military, naval and otherwise help and how much help do you expect in the future?
A. Recently the allies have increased their military aid, but this is still too little to satisfy the most urgent needs of our National Liberation army. Moreover, war material aid is to be increased by a variety of means. Medical aid is also being increased, but technical difficulties are in the way of transporting this material in sufficient quantities. We expect in the principles of lend-lease such future aid from the allies as will satisfy the needs not only of the present but of a potential army of 600,000 fighters. In the first place, we consider tanks, planes and motorized equipment. Let me say that the peoples of Yugoslavia cannot understand the fact that the former Yugoslav Navy was urgently needed in the battle for the defense of the islands and the coast, which is effectively in the hands of the enemy. The people of Yugoslavia expect the allies to put this navy promptly at the disposal of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia, as for the civilian aid we know that an organization called UNRRA has been created in America with a view to preparing aid to the various European peoples that moment they are liberated. In this organization Yugoslavia is represented by people who have no connection with the plans of Yugoslavia. It would be logical for the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia to be represented in this organization as it controls a big liberated territory where the civilian population is in need of urgent aid. In this territory bloody fighting has been going on for three years. At the people of this poorest region of Yugoslavia are exhausted, having had to support themselves and the National Liberation army as well. This is leaving aside the devastation and plundering of these regions by the enemy during his offensives.

7. Will the National Liberation Army stop fighting when Yugoslavia is liberated or will it continue to fight alongside the Allies until the war is definitely over? All of Europe liberated? A. The NLA will wage a war with the allies until the total annihilation of the German and other conquerors, that is, until the end of the war.

8. What and under what conditions do you expect the allied recognition of the NLA as the new Yugoslav Committee as the sole legitimate representative of the peoples of Yugoslavia? This recognition will be the more necessary as it will be in the interest of the Yugoslav people and in the common military interest of the allies in the common prosecution of the war against the common enemy.

9. What plans does the National Liberation Movement consider for the post-war political and social organization of Yugoslavia? A. The plans of the National Liberation Movement have been worked out in the resolutions of the second meeting of the anti-Fascist Council of the National Liberation of Yugoslavia. They can be summed up in two statements: (A) Nationalization of a nationally equal federal Yugoslavia, where all the nationalities will enjoy their national rights and within their state borders organize their lives as they deem fit; (B) Creation of a truly democratic Yugoslavia. This Yugoslavia is already in the making in the historic process of the National Liberation struggle. With the National Liberation Councils in villages and towns as the foundation of a truly democratic Yugoslavia. The guarantee of democracy lies in the fact that guarantees in the construction of new democratic Yugoslavia participation and will participate those who fight for the freedom and independence of Yugoslavia.
10. What are the views of the National Liberation Movement about the post-war international organization of the Balkans and Central Europe? A. In the first place we want a powerful and independent Yugoslavia built on democratic principles. The postwar organization of Europe is of course a matter to be decided by the European peoples. Naturally it is our wish and intention to prevent a repetition of this terrible catastrophe caused by the sinister reactionary powers with Hitler at their head. In my opinion this could be avoided only if among other peoples the peoples of Central Europe and the Balkans also establish the closest relations of friendship and mutual assistance which again can materialize only if these peoples desire democracy and liberty rule their countries. It is our wish to continue closest friendship with our allies after the war, especially with Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union.

WM 151715
In February, 1944 reports reliably that famine conditions in Yugoslavia are considerably worse than in Greece where some relief is afforded by wheat shipments. Conditions in Croatia thought to be worse where Germans make no effort to organize a rationing system as this country is administered by its own Government and is looked upon as an ally.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED
YUGOSLAVIA
Youth Congress Details

AT MARSHAL TITO'S HEADQUARTERS IN THE YUGOSLAV MOUNTAINS,
May 8 - Delayed - (Reuters) - Yugoslavia's great youth rally held
in a smashed and almost deserted village high up in the mountains
had ended after five days of enthusiastic debates, singing and
dancing. It was attended by some 800 delegates from all parts of
the country and now these young men and women whose ages range
from 13 to 22 must find their long and perilous way back to their
own districts. For some it means more than 25 days marching
through wild mountains with stiff battles with German and quisling
troops.

A number of these youthful delegates lost their lives
fighting their way through the enemy lines to reach the rally
and others will die fighting as they go home again. But for the
youth of liberated Yugoslavia nothing has been in vain, for it
has been a meeting of tremendous importance. It has given them
their first chance in nearly 15 months of meeting other young
folk from other ends of country to exchange experiences and to
discuss all manner of questions regarding their organisations.

Two main resolutions were passed: firstly, to forge a
stronger link between youth organisations throughout the country
with greater efforts to assist in the liberation of the country
and to organise a Federated Yugoslavia. Marshal Tito in a short
speech closing the business of the congress expressed his over-
whelming confidence in the future generations of Yugoslavia:

"If I have heard wonderful tales of your fight for freedom",
he said, "And you yourselves have told each other of battles you
have fought in different parts of the country. These collective
experiences will be a strong incentive to fight all the harder in
the days which are about to fall on our common enemies."

The congress was then given over to plays, singing and folk
dancing. All meetings were held in a bombed out building which had
been rebuilt by youth organisations. Behind the platform where
the committee sat, presided over by a 20-year-old chairman, were
draped the flags of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia
and on the walls were pictures of Tito, Stalin, Churchill and
Roosevelt each with his country's flag beside the picture.
All delegates were heavily armed, carrying rifles or submachine-
guns, automatic pistols and hand grenades.

(in the third PGH, 3rd line, insert after "with greater efforts"
the following: "both at the front end behind the lines; secondly, to do everything
possible....")

VC 151000
NEW YORK, May 14th (CWI) - Stefan Pribicevich, Time and Life correspondent representing the combined American and British press, was revealed today to have obtained an interview with Marshal Tito, leader of the Yugoslav Partisans.

The interview, follows:

Somewhere in Yugoslavia, May 10th - Delayed - I am writing this dispatch sitting on the grass with my typewriter on my knees, while Allied bombers are droning overhead to bomb nearby German positions from which artillery has been growling all morning.

To the left I can gaze at a deep perpendicular cliff cut in the huge rock where I had dinner with Tito last night.

Escorted by guards, four of us, newsmen and photographers, left the village at dusk and stopped at the foot of the east path marked by three bored craters. After an exchange of pass words, a new guard led us straight up the rocks along a roaring waterfall, deep into a fissure of a towering cren:

Midway up we entered a vast grotto with an underground mountain lake. The Germans have known for some time that this is Tito's Headquarters.

A few weeks ago, 6 German Stukas devoured the lofty cren in full daylight with no more effect than that of three punctures on the side of a hill. Tito's place is an inhabitable mountain fortress that can defy air power as long as the mountain itself is not razed.

In a room high in the bowels of the rock, panelled with woodwork, Tito welcomed us with strong colorless Yugoslav plum brandy and cigarettes. He wore a simple grey green uniform with only golden laurel leaves on the lapels and cuff indicating the rank of Marshal of Yugoslavia.

He has a splendid blond wavy shock of hair. Current storm photographs of him show him injustices. There is a permanent flicker of a smile on his lightly-curved face. In his right hand he holds the proverbial pipe, shaped cigarette holder (Tito is a prodigious smoker), and at his foot lies "Tiger", a German sheepdog the size of a calf.

Tito speaks calmly and deliberately, with a faint trace of Slovenian accent, and after himself be interrupted at all. He speaks perfect German and Russian as well as some French. He reads English fluently, but is too shy to talk it for fear of mistakes.

Tito expects the second front soon and a Russian drive straight westward. He does not expect the Germans to withdraw from Yugoslav or the Balkans unless the Russian reach Belgrade, and in any case not without a fight, and he intends to continue to fight against the Germans even after Yugoslavia is liberated, until the total and utter defeat of Hitler. Right now he will be able to place 150,000 soldiers at the disposal of the Allies for action elsewhere, if Yugoslavia is liberated; later perhaps even twice as many.

According to Tito, the German fighter is not what he used to be. If his initial attack fails, the German loses heart. For the Chetnik, Tito has little respect. The Chetniks, in spite of their historic reputation and the black bear skulls and crossbones on their caps, take to flight in any determined attack, he says. However they know the terrain and are extremely valuable to the Germans and useful to the Partisans as German guides, he says.
Today's communiqué from the Yugoslav Liberation Army reports large scale fighting in Slovenia where the enemy has re-occupied Bledenburk, but the whole sector from Bledenburk to Trzubje is in the hands of the Yugoslav forces.

In a two-day battle in the Kendek between Belvo and Prijedorje, the enemy lost 100 dead on the battlefield.

The communiqué also reports the blowing up of a train in western Bosnia and renewed activity of the Vojvodina partisans against the railway from Belgrade to the Hungarian border. (UNH).

YUGOSL.VI.

May 14.

By John E. Bott, Reuters Special Correspondent

TITO'S HEADQUARTERS, Wednesday, May 13. (Reuters): Last night I dined with Marshal Josif Broz Tito in his amazing headquarters high up in the Yugoslav mountains only 20 miles from the front line where the partisans are engaged in bitter fighting against the Germans.

The Marshal's Headquarters are built in a series of natural caves running in a gallery straight into the sides of a deep ravine. These headquarters of the partisan leader are the most impenetrable of any of the Allied command centres. A short time ago the Germans sent fifteen divobors to make out Tito from this hideout but the attempt was a complete failure.

On the journey from my billets, accompanied by an American colleague and two Allied Generals, our guard was changed three times.

We were led along a rough path cut out of the rock face and up the side of the mountain. A great waterfall cascaded down in a thunderous roar into a valley far below. Guides led us up to the rocks as the path twisted and turned round jutting spurs and ledges.

Then we arrived at the headquarters; we found Marshal Tito waiting to welcome us. He led us into his study, a small, simply furnished apartment. A long dining table lies against one wall facing two windows which look directly down the ravine and cut into the valley.

By the windows the Marshal has his desk, and behind him is a divan. The chairs are all simple wooden affairs, on three of the walls are maps, one a large scale map of Yugoslavia. There is only one exotic touch about the rooms: the four walls are all lined with sheets of pure white silk from parachutes. The white material is used for shade over the electric lights.

Our meeting with the Marshal was completely informal and we discussed a variety of topics. The Marshal does not like to talk in English as he does not consider his English fluent.

(Y.W.)

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GUEST OF TITO.

He can, however, read it easily. We spoke with him mostly through the American correspondent, Stoyan Probicovich, who is
Serbian by birth.

The Marshal was wearing the blue-grey uniform of the
National Army of Liberation with his Marshal's insignia on his
shoulder and collar.

He is very strongly built, has a strong face. He
first strikes one as being stern, until one sees lines of laughter
at the corners of his eyes and mouth.

He laughs readily and very gaily.

While listening to a story a smile constantly hovers near his
lips. He himself speaks animatedly, using his powerful hands in
gestures when he wants to make a particular point clear.

All photographs have shown him a stern type of man.

These pictures are far from the truth for, while Tito can be
 stern, he is essentially human, laughing, smoking and drinking with
his friends.

I asked him if the thought that the German and quisling
troops had any plans for another offensive against the partisans
arrayed: "No," he answered, "I do not think they have. The main
German concern of the moment is to keep the forces of the National
Army of Liberation split up into groups throughout the country.

German tactics at the present time consist of minor threats in
various directions with the idea of making the partisans
stagger under their scanty store of ammunition and thus immobilize them.

"The re-finding now that the German soldier is deteriorating
and is not what he was a year ago. By far the best soldiers the
enemy has are, the Ustashi. I think one Ustashi is two against us.
The chemnitz are definitely bad soldiers."

After about forty minutes talk we orderly brought in a decanter of slivovitz. This is a plum brandy peculiar to Yugoslav
ian and is drunk like vodka or schnapps.

It was an excellent meal consisting of a plate of cold
meat from which every one helped himself, an omelette, a hot
steaks and chops followed by a delicious chocolate pudding. With
the meal we drink Red Deliction wine.

Also present at the meal were Tito's Chief of Staff, the Sec-
retary of Antifascist Council and the Vice-President of Yugoslav
National Committee.

Stoyan Probicovich, an American correspondent who accompanied
Talbot, gave these additional details to the
combined British and American press: Tito expects the second
front soon and a Russian drive straight westward towards the
heart of Germany. He does not expect the Germans to withdraw
from Yugoslavia or the Balkans unless the Russians reach Belgrade,
and, in any case not without a fight.

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