

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

DC30/109/306

SLOVENES IN CARINTHIA
MAY, JUNE 1945

14

CSD

I don't consider 13 is of interest
to us unless C.C. wishes to see as
a follow up on SATC Conf (Political).

16/6/45

15

No. 20 Wick. St. W.S.

Ed.

21/6/46 September 1946

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

NO. 10

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593 Ex. Comm. (13)
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 912

CONFIDENTIAL (12)

933
3048
13 June 1945.
JUN 15 1945

SUBJECT: Slovene Minority in CARINTHIA.

TO : Distribution below.

1. Attached for your information is copy of a report submitted to the Chief of Staff by A.C.C.S., G-5 in pursuance of para. 9 of the Minutes of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) held on 7 June 1945 (Ref SAC(P)(45) 14th Meeting).

2. Please acknowledge receipt on the attached form.

for filing
CHARLES H. STOFFORD,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

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15 Army Group	1
8 Army	6
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Allied Commission for	
Austria (AC)	1
USOC (A)	1
37 Military Mission	3



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HSG/na

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

11 June 1945

SUBJECT: Slovene Minority in Carinthia.

TO : Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.

1. Object.

- a. To establish the truth concerning propaganda allegation of ill treatment of and discrimination against Slovene Minority in Carinthia.
- b. To consider methods of counter propaganda.

2. Summary and Conclusions.

A. The facts.

(1) The main allegations are that there are many arrests of Slovenes in Carinthia, and that the local police are composed of SS men and persons previously employed under the Nazi regime.

Arrest situation is as follows:

Security Arrests: Total to 7 June, 732. Of this total all but 36 are persons who were officials under the Nazi regime and thus in 'arrestable' categories. None of these by reason of the positions they held, could have been members of the "Slovene Minority". Of the total of 732, 6 only are Jugoslavs, 2 were employed by the Gestapo, one by the Abwehr, one by HSS (Hitler Schatz Staff) and one by SD (Sicherheitsdienst). The balance of 36 were arrested for various security grounds within the existing directives. For explanation of the existing system of security arrests, and detailed breakdown of arrests to date, see Appendix A.

Military government arrests for civil offenses up to 7 June.
These fall into two classes:

Civil offenses against military government, e.g. curfew offenses and movement restrictions 345.

Ordinary crimes (largely theft) 134.

Local Police Situation is as follows:

... of local police.

(1) The main allegations are that there are many arrests of Slovenes in Carinthia, and that the local police are composed of SS men and persons previously employed under the Nazi regime.

Arrest situation is as follows:

Security Arrests: Total to 7 June, 732. Of this total all but 36 are persons who were officials under the Nazi regime and thus in 'arrestable' categories. None of these by reason of the positions they held, could have been members of the 'Slovene Minority'. Of the total of 732, 6 only are Yugoslavs, 2 were employed by the Gestapo, one by the Abwehr, one by WSS (Hitler Schutz Staffel) and one by SS (Sicherheitsdienst). The balance of 36 were arrested for various security grounds within the existing directives. For explanation of the existing system of security arrests, and detailed breakdown of arrests to date, see Appendix A.

Military government arrests for civil offenses up to 7 June.
These fall into two classes:

Civil offenses against military government, e.g. curfew offenses and movement restrictions 345.

Ordinary crimes (largely theft) 134.

Local Police Situation is as follows:

Table showing position with regard to retention of local police.

	Gendarmerie	State Police
Original Strength	1035	723
Strength on Occupation	494	482
Returned to Duty	124	10
Dismissed	79	131
Arrested	7	4
Approved	363	357
Still under Investigation	229	-

All senior officials have either fled or have been dismissed. All others who have been retained have individually been carefully 'vetted' in consultation with ex-

Experienced British police officers. One case occurred of a policeman who concealed a number of the SS. He has been sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

It will be seen therefore that there can be no grounds whatever for either of the general allegations which have been made.

(2) There are 3 specific instances of which complaint has been made:

(a) The arrest in an extraordinary and cruel manner by Allied military government and local police of members of the Slovene National Liberation Committee.

(b) The raid on the printing press.

(c) The "full freedom of action" given to Rupnik and the Catholic Bishop Rojman.

(a) and (b) are best taken together. A full account from Commander 61 Infantry Brigade, and the Commanding Officer of 7 RB are attached at Appendix B.

From these statements it is clear that the action taken was military, in accordance with operational orders regarding the withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from the area, and that the incident had no military government or political flavor. It further appears that the civilians concerned, of whom Pravda says "they were arrested and carried away to an unknown destination", were in fact Yugoslavs who, after questioning by field security police, were escorted the same day to the Yugoslav frontier. (c) Rupnik is now in the Displaced Persons Camp at Vitrings. Catholic Bishop Rojman has been and remains under surveillance. There is no charge against either of them.

Furthermore

The provincial government which was formed on 5 May, and which was present on 6 May when British troops entered, ceased to exercise any authority from the time of occupation. It was formally informed on 28 May that no recognition was given to it, and on 5 June a consultative committee of 12 members was announced, all of whom were carefully vetted, and one of whom represents the Slovene minority. Petek, the leader of the Slovene minority, has been given a special pass to come from his home to KLINGENFURT at any time, and the Senior military government officer of Gao KALUNTEM (Col D. Smith) has personally invited Petek to see him on Slovene minority matters whenever he wishes, or alternatively, to make any complaint he wishes to the local military government officer. No complaints have been made. At Appendix C is a translation of a statement made on behalf of the Consultative Committee at its first meeting on 8 June, from which it will be seen that special emphasis is laid upon the "urgency of rehabilitation in the Slovene territory of Carinthia".

B. Methods of Counter-propaganda.

(1) Passive Counter-propaganda.

(a) It is suggested that a Press Conference be held to describe

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the area, and that the incident had no military government or political flavor. It further appears that the civilians concerned, of whom Pravda says "they were arrested and carried away to an unknown destination", were in fact Yugoslavs who, after questioning by field security police, were escorted the same day to the Yugoslav frontier. (c) Ruznik is now in the Displaced Persons Camp at Vitting. Catholic Bishop Rajman has been and remains under surveillance. There is no charge against either of them.

Furtherance

The provincial government which was formed on 5 May, and which was present on 8 May when British troops entered, ceased to exercise any authority from the time of occupation. It was formally informed on 23 May that no recognition was given to it, and on 5 June a consultative committee of 12 members was announced, all of whom were carefully 'vetted', and one of whom represents the Slovene minority. Petek, the leader of the Slovene minority, has been given a special pass to come from his home to KLAGENFURT at any time, and the Senior military government officer of Gau KLAGENFURT (Col D. Smith) has personally invited PETEK to see him on Slovene minority matters whenever he wishes, or alternatively, to make any complaint he wishes to the local military government officer. No complaints have been made. It appears that a translation of a statement made on behalf of the Consultative Committee at its first meeting on 8 June, from which it will be seen that special emphasis is laid upon the urgency of rehabilitation in the Slovene territory of Carinthia".

g. Methods of Counter-propaganda.

(1) Passive Counter-propaganda.

(a) It is suggested that a Press Conference be held to describe the progress of military government in Carinthia to date, during the course of which the allegations in Pravda and in the Yugoslav Press and on the radio, can be dealt with by reference to facts in A above.

(b) It is suggested that this Press Conference take place at LIND, and that correspondents then be invited to go and see for themselves, accompanied by a Public Relations Officer.

(c) This procedure was discussed with and agreed by SCLO 8 Army (Air Commodore Benson), Political Adviser to 5 Corps (Brigadier Nicholas) SMAC Gau KLAGENFURT (Col D. Smith), P.D. 8 Army (Lt Col Benckler).

(d) SCLO 8 Army requested that in any event, a Public Relations Officer be attached to him.

(e) It was also suggested that announcement be made of steps to give more active recognition to the Slovene minority in the area, viz.

Restoration of the pre-Anschluss bilingual classes in REI Schools (when the latter re-open). Establishment of a weekly Slovene REI

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without time in 31st language, perhaps 1 hour per day. These steps are now under consideration and it might be well to indicate true intentions now, rather than wait until they are put into operation, which may take some time, and which may then look like grudging concessions.

(2) Positive Counter-propaganda.

Material is being furnished under heads as follows:

- (a) Abduction of harmless local civilians.
- (b) Brutal treatment and mass shooting of returning local troops
- (c) Looting and destruction by Jugoslavs and partisans before withdrawal.

(d) Reluctance Croat civil refugees to return to Yugoslavia. It is assumed however, that positive counter propaganda will only be authorized after careful consideration, particularly in view of recent more favorable trend of events with Marshal Tito, and only after consultation with higher authority.

C. Documents attached in support of report.

- (1) Statement on arrest procedure (Appendix A).
- (2) Statement of Commander of 1st Inf Bde and Commanding Officer 7 RB (Appendix B).
- (3) Translation of statement by Consultative Committee (Appendix C).
- (4) Copy of mail from Political Advisor 5 Corps (Appendix D).
- (5) Summary of Yugoslav and Jugoslav Press and Radio propaganda (Appendix E).

D. Officers consulted in preparation of this report.

SCAP 8 Army (Air Commodore Benson).
Brig. GSI (Brigadier Hitchens).
COL(1) (Lt. Col. Barron).
COL(Ops) (Lt Col Smuts).
PWS 5 Army (Lt Col Beuchler).
POL Adv 5 Corps (Brig Nicholson).
CMSC Gen. Rawlinson (Col D. Smith).
Chief Public Safety Officer Gen. Kaernten (Lt Col Collins).

D. S. JACKLING
Colonel, G.S.

C. Documents attached in support of report.

- (1) Statement on arrest procedure (Appendix A).
- (2) Statement of Commander 31 Inf Bde and Commanding Officer 7 RB (Appendix B).
- (3) Translation of statement by Consultative Committee (Appendix C).
- (4) Copy signed from Political Adviser 5 Corps (Appendix D).
- (5) Summary of Reaction and Jugoslav Press and Radio propaganda (Appendix E).

D. Officers consulted in preparation of this report.

SCAD 2 Army (Lt Colonel Barton).
Brig. G21 (Brigadier Hitchens).
G201(I) (Lt. Col. Barrett).
G201 (Ops) (Lt Col Smuts).
PMB 3 Army (Lt Col Beauchamp).
PMB 4th 5 Corps (Brig Nicholls).
CMCO Gen Hadden (Col D. Smith).
Chief Public Safety Officer Gen Karmuten (Lt Col Collins).

D. S. JACKLING
Colonel, J.S.

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NOTE for COL JACKLING, G-5

Headquarters,
Eighth Army.

APPENDIX A

May 1945

Subject: Arrest Policy and Activity in British-held AUSTRIA.

1: Arrests fall into two main groups:

- a) Military Government Arrests
- b) Security Arrests.

2: Military Government arrests affect persons apprehended for offences against Military Government Regulations.

3: Security arrests affect persons who, by reason of their record sentiments or actions constitute a threat to the security of the Allied Armed Forces or the Allied Administration, or who, by virtue of their position, authority or knowledge are best qualified or most likely to offer resistance to the Allied occupation or to attempt to perpetrate or to revive in any form the proscribed Nazi organizations.

4: Such persons fall into two main groups:

- a) Arrestable categories
- b) Wanted persons.

5: Arrestable categories include the following:

- a) All members of the SA, Allgemeine SS and the Waffen SS down to the rank of Unterscharfuhrer.
- b) All members of the NSDAP (Nazi Party) down to the rank of Gemeinschaftsleiter.
- c) All members of organizations headed by the RSHA (Reichssicherheitshauptamt) namely: Abwehr, Sicherheitsdienst, Gestapo.
- d) Members of the Kriminalpolizei und Ordnungspolizei down to the rank of Oberst (Colonel) inclusive.

6: Wanted persons constitute the original pre-occupation lists of individuals whose apprehension is necessary on account of specific activities in which they have been engaged.

7: The arrest policy now being carried out aims at discovering by careful

the constitution of the security of the Allied Armed Forces or the Allied Administration, or who, by virtue of their position, authority or knowledge are best qualified or most likely to offer resistance to the Allied occupation or to attempt to perpetuate or to revive in any form the proscribed Nazi organizations.

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- a) Arrestable categories
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- d) Members of the Kriminalpolizei and Ordnungspolizei down to the rank of Oberst (Colonel) inclusive.

6: Wanted persons constitute the original pre-occupation lists of individuals whose apprehension is necessary on account of specific activities in which they have been engaged.

7: The arrest policy now being carried out aims at discovering by careful investigation and documentation all individuals falling within the scope of security arrests as described. Such examination may reveal necessary additions to the list of wanted persons.

8: Arrest is not arbitrary but only takes place when the facts of each individual case have been ascertained. Detention is not sufficient ground for arrest although steps are taken to check information of this kind.

9: Arrests numbered on 7 June:

10 Military Government Arrests.
732 Security Arrests.

10: It is not claimed that the programme is by any means complete. Arrestable categories cover a wide field. There may be up to 30,000 wanted persons in AUSTRIA as a whole, an unknown proportion of whom may be in the present British-held area. There may thus be members of both arrestable categories and of wanted lists at large. It is however clear that there can have been no steps taken which overstep the bounds of the arrest policy. All members of the Austrian (ex German) Police still allowed to function have been individually screened.

11: A rough analysis of the security arrests so far made is as follows:

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INTER	2
HSS & PF	1
HSS	2
SD Sicherheitsdienst	45
GEST. PO	105
WEIER	13
GRUNINGS-KRUMHOLTZ POLIZEI	6
KREISLEITER	14
CHRSCHUFFENBURGER	195
RED.P	129
SS Officers and OR's	100
NOXX	36
WILHELMJUNEND	14
BRND deutscher MACHL	2
ADM OFFICE IS	17
MISCELLANEOUS	36
TOTAL	<u>732</u>

12: Of the above classes all but 6 are German or Austrian citizens. Of the 6 Yugoslavs, two were employed by the Gestapo, one by the Abwehr, one by HSS and one by SD.

13: With reference to the allegation that Col RUMNIK and Bishop ROMAN are given full liberty of movement, the former is stated to have been evacuated to WINTRING PW Camp while the latter has been and remaining under surveillance.

/s/ ?
Brigadier.
General Staff Intelligence.

13: With reference to the allegation that Col RUMNIK and Bishop ROMAN are given full liberty of movement, the former is stated to have been evacuated to VINHONG PW Camp while the latter has been and remaining under surveillance.

/s/ ?

Brigadier.
General Staff Intelligence.

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APPENDIX B

SUBJECT: Relations with YUGOSLAVS -
Alleged violence in KL SENFURT

L.F.H.Q.,

Chief of Staff
S30.1 (1)

140th HQ EIGHTH ARMY
W 1070 G

Tels. Extn. 43.

9 June 45

Note for Col JACKLINE G-5 AFHQ

Ref FX 84799 of 30 May.

1. Statements are forwarded herewith from the formation and unit concerned, regarding the alleged violence in clearing the KL SENFURT offices of the National Liberation Committee on 23 May.

/s/ Lt Col
for Lieut-General,
800 EIGHTH ARMY.

Chief of Staff
DSD, I (I)

Note for Col JACKLIN 8-5 AFHQ

Ref FX 84799 of 30 May.

1. Statements are forwarded herewith from the formation and unit concerned, regarding the alleged violence in clearing the KLINGENFURT offices of the National Liberation Committee on 23 May.

/s/ ? Lt Col
for Lieut-General,
COC NORTH ARMY.

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REPORT BY COMMANDER 61 INF BDE

On the morning of 22 May I ordered the Officer Commanding 2 RB and 7 RB to carry out a check of the whole of KL. GEMBURT to ensure that all YS forces had complied with the order to be clear of the area by 1900 hrs 21 May. Generally speaking the order had been complied with by all YS forces with the exception of one coy 70 strong which has remained behind. The coy was based in the KL. GEMBURT Tax Office and was being used as the local HQ of the YS Liberation Committee, with a det of 15 men guarding the printing press. I went and saw the local commander and asked why the troops were still in the town and he replied that he had no instructions to move out, and that as far as he knew he was to stay and guard the printing press in the interests of the YS Nationals in the district. I then told him of the agreement reached between 5 Corps and Commander 3 YS Army. I told him that I would give him every assistance in the way of transport and that we would escort his force to the frontier starting 0830 hrs on the morning 23 May. The arrangements for the evacuation of the printing press were carried out in a friendly manner and no incidents occurred.

I enclose a report from the Officer Commanding 7 RB on the alleged incident at the YS HQs on the night of 22 May 1945.

The search carried out by 7 RB was quite normal and in no way brutal. The twelve civilians including VL. DIMOR KATUTUK were detained for interrogation by FSS as there appeared to be no reason why they should not be able to throw some light on the complete chaos and wanton destruction which had been carried out in the building during the night. Also the fact that two of them were armed seemed to justify some form of interrogation. It is quite untrue that a YS flag was burnt by British soldiers of either 2 RB or 7 RB during this period.

4 June 45.

Brigadier,
Commander, 61 Infantry Brigade

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I enclose a report from the Officer Commanding 7 RB on the alleged incident at the YS HQs on the night of 22 May 1945.

The search carried out by 7 RB was quite normal and in no way brutal. The twelve civilians including VI. DUCOR KRIVUTK were detained for interrogation by FSS as there appeared to be no reason why they should not be able to throw some light on the complete chaos and wanton destruction which had been carried out in the building during the night. Also the fact that two of them were armed seemed to justify some form of interrogation. It is quite untrue that a YS flag was burnt by British soldiers of either 2 RB or 7 RB during this period.

4 June 45.

Brigadier,
Commander, 61 Infantry Brigade

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REPORT BY COMMANDING OFFICER 7 RB

1. At about 2000 hrs on 22 May 45 the town patrol reported to HQ 7 RB that VS forces who were in the KL-GANFUT Pensions Offices were destroying the pensions file and register. HQ 61 Inf Bde were informed and a section of the inflying platoon under Lieutenant Sheppard were at once sent round to investigate.
2. On arrival at the Pensions Offices the section found a number of VS troops and civilians in the building; they saw a safe that had been shot open and a number of partially destroyed documents lying about. Lieutenant Sheppard then asked the HEAD VS Officer and a civilian who appeared to be working with him to go round to 7 RB HQ in order to sort the matter out. Both agreed and did so voluntarily.
3. HQ 61 Inf Bde were informed and gave instructions that no action was to be taken against the VS personnel but that they should be out of the Pensions building by 0830 hrs on 23 May the following day. This was done and the VS Ceat with the civilian left amicably and returned to the Pensions Office. An UNOBTAINABLE watch was kept on the building throughout the night to ensure that no further disturbances occurred.
4. At about 0815 hrs 23 May orders were received from HQ 61 Inf Bde to send a platoon down to the Pensions Office at 0830 hrs to remove the VS troops from the building if they had not already left. On arrival it was found that a 2 RB patrol had received similar orders and were already moving the VS troops. 12 civilians, 2 of whom were armed and who had apparently been involved in the burning of documents the night before and who stated that they were Austrian civilians but had no papers, were asked to come round to Bn HQ, which they did. HQ 61 Inf Bde were informed and gave instructions that they were to be retained at Bn HQ for questioning by PSS. PSS questioned them throughout the day and established that they were in fact VSs. HQ 61 Inf Bde gave orders for them to be transported and escorted to the VS frontier, which was done that day.

documents lying about. Lieutenant Sheppard then asked the RE.D IS Officer and a civilian who appeared to be working with him to go round to 7 RB HQ in order to sort the matter out. Both agreed and did so voluntarily.

3. HQ 61 Inf Bde were informed and gave instructions that no action was to be taken against the IS personnel but that they should be out of the Pensions building by 0830 hrs on 23 May the following day. This was done and the IS Cmd with the civilian left amicably and returned to the Pensions Office. ^{an UNOBTAINABLE} watch was kept on the building throughout the night to ensure that no further disturbances occurred.

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4 June 45

Lieut-Colonel
7 RB.

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APPENDIX C

TRANSLATION

After lengthy discussions with Military Government, that authority ordered the formation of a Consultative Country Council, the function of which, on the one hand, is to advise Military Government in all questions of civil administration, and on the other hand, the formulation (representation) of all queries which are of importance to the district of CARINTHIA. This Council is the sole representative of the people of CARINTHIA with the Military Government.

The opening session of this Council enables me to issue the following declaration in the name of the said Council.

"The Consultative Country Council desires a realistic cooperation with Military Government, because the Council is convinced thereby best to serve CARINTHIA.

The Council attaches great importance to influencing Military Government by advice on all questions of civil executive administration, thereby taking part in the reconstruction of the district, and weeding out everything that reminds of the past Nazi period.

The Council will endeavour to take active part in eliminating all obstacles for a speedy carrying-out of all governmental measures in every respect. In case, however, occasional difficulties arise, until the new procedure is operating smoothly in our administration, we would emphasize today that these will be due only to misunderstanding, and not to wilful misinterpretation - these will, you may rest assured, be settled as quickly as possible.

The Council requests Military Government to give its full attention to the food and coal problem, as heretofore. Furthermore, the Council thinks it its duty to draw your attention to the urgency of rehabilitation in the SLOVENE territory of CARINTHIA.

The Council will carry out all tasks allotted to it in view of the great responsibility vested in it with seriousness and impartiality in order thus to assist in safeguarding a free CARINTHIA as part of a Free Democratic AUSTRIA."

The Council attaches great importance to influencing Military Government by advice on all questions of civil executive administration, thereby taking part in the reconstruction of the district, and working out everything that reminds of the past Nazi period.

The Council will endeavour to take active part in eliminating all obstacles for a speedy carrying-out of all governmental measures in every respect. In case, however, occasional difficulties arise, until the new procedure is operating smoothly in our administration, we would emphasize today that these will be due only to misunderstanding, and not to wilful misinterpretation - these will, you may rest assured, be settled as quickly as possible.

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The Council will carry out all tasks allotted to it in view of the great responsibility vested in it with seriousness and impartiality in order thus to assist in safeguarding a free CARINTHIA as part of a Free Democratic AUSTRIA."

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APPENDIX D

Copy

From: Main 3 Corps

For Action: ACADEMY

For Info: Eighth Army: AFHQ: GSI(a) : GSI (b) : MC CARDENTIA

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0,661 TOPSEC (.) for POLIN from POLAD (.) your 1951 and

FOREIGN OFFICE telegram 1886 to CASERTA (.)

Following are facts regarding main JUGOSLAV accusations (.)

One (.) provincial government (.) this was formed 5 may with tacit consent NAZI and REICHWEHR surrender tps to take over adm from SAUBITZER MINER (.) latter forced to resign may 7 (.) BRIT tps entered KLAGENFURT may 8 (.) provincial government at once offered services to military government and apart from removal and replacement certain NAZI officials ceased to exercise any authority (.) PIESCH formally told may 28 provincial government NOT recognized (.) consultative committee announced jun 5 with composition as already reported (.) several members of provincial government were incl others dropped new well known anti NAZIS added (.) All members vetted and approved (.)

COMMENT (.) opportunities oppression of SLOVENE minority obviously very small (.)

TWO (.) NE OLE NOT member of government or committee but remains head adm services working under MG direction (.) NO evidence pan GERMAN but investigating (.)

THREE (.) TALSCHUTZ dropped at our suggestion with ready agreement PIESCH (.)

FOUR (.) PERMITICH (.) NO evidence pan GERMAN but investigating (.) in any case hope secure and publish statement attitude of committee all major issues incl condemnation pan GERMANISM (.)

FIVE (.) police (.) JUGOSLAV allegations unfounded (.) str before accusation approx 1000 gendarmerie 650 schutzpolizei (.) of these 600 and 400 respectively fled (.) partly bad conscience partly fear arrival SOVIET tps (.) of remainder approx 100 so far dismissed or arrested in denatification (.) about 300 gendarmerie who fled now taken back after thorough vetting (.) all special NAZI police firms completely dissolved and personnel being rounded up (.)

SIX (.) deportations (.) positively NO rpt NO local SLOVENS deported (.) several cases deportation JUGOSLAV SLOVENS falsely claiming to be locals (.)

SEVEN (.) alleged arrest liberation committee (.) NO truth in this (.) some confusion between JUGOSLAV civil adm equivalent to MC and professedly local M-

and replacement certain NAZI officials ceased to exercise any authority (.) PIRSCH formally told say 28 provincial government NOT recognized (.) consultative committee announced Jun 5 with composition as already reported (.) several members of provincial government were incl others dropped new well known anti NAZIS added (.) All members vetted and approved (.)

COMMENT (.) opportunities oppressor of SLOVENE minority obviously very small (.)

TWO (.) HE CLE NOT member of government or committee but remains head ach services working under MG direction (.) NO evidence per GERMAN but investigating (.)

THREE (.) TALSCHUTZ dropped at our suggestion with ready agreement PIRSCH (.)

FOUR (.) PERLITSCH (.) NO evidence per GERMAN but investigating (.) in any case hope secure and publish statement attitude of committee all major issues incl condemnation per GERMANISM (.)

FIVE (.) police (.) JUOSLAV allegations unfounded (.) str before accusation approx 1000 gendarmerie 650 schutzpolizei (.) of these 600 and 400 respectively fled (.) partly bad conscience partly fear arrival SOVIET troops (.) of remainder approx 100 so far dismissed or arrested in demarcation (.) about 300 gendarmerie who fled now taken back after thorough vetting (.) all special NAZI police firms completely dissolved and personnel being rounded up (.)

SIX (.) deportations (.) positively NO rpt NO local SLOVENS deported (.) several cases deportation JUOSLAV SLOVENS falsely claiming to be locals (.)

SEVEN (.) alleged arrest liberation committee (.) NO truth in this (.) some confusion between JUOSLAV civil adm equivalent to MG and professedly local liberation committee PEREK (.) former consisting JUOSLAV military personnel plus two JUOSLAV civilians evicted say 23 having NOT received or not obeyed gen withdrawal order (.) liberation committee formed under JUOSLAV auspices dissolved by MG may 25 (.) PEREK told he could contact MG in matters affecting SLOVENE interests (.)

EIGHT (.) victimization (.) despite widespread enquiries absolutely NO evidence victimization SLOVENE minority (.)

NINE (.) COMMENT (.) in Len JUOSLAV statements devoid any foundation and can be flatly denied (.) if positive counter propaganda required can furnish material under following heads (.) abduction harmless local civilians (.) brutal treatment and mass shooting returning CRANT troops (.) looting and destruction by JUOSLAVS and partisans before withdrawal (.) reluctance CRANT civil refugees to return YUGOSLAVIA (.) minimal if required (.)

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APPENDIX E

Summary of Propaganda

The propaganda campaign about the alleged plight of the Slovene minority in Carinthia has been going on since the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Carinthia. Yugoslav press and radio carry some references each day. Highlights are as follows:

25th May (Tanjug) "After the liberation of all Carinthia numerous meetings and reunions were held at which the Slovenians and Austrians from Carinthia manifested their attachment to Tito's Yugoslavia. Everywhere the Carinthians demanded to be returned to Yugoslavia."

On 26th May a survey of the Yugoslav press disclosed that all newspapers reported that units of Allied police and those of the former Carinthian Hitlerite Government were carrying out arrests of the Slovenian Partisans in Klagenfurt and that the people in Carinthia demanded their annexation to Tito's Yugoslavia. On the same day, Tanjug announced that the Allied military police on Wednesday, the 23rd of May, surrounded a house in Klagenfurt in which located the Headquarters of the Carinthian Regional National Liberation Committee. AMG units searched the house "in an extraordinary and cruel manner" and arrested several people including Vladimir Krvich. At the same time the AMG police cooperating with the local police broke into a printing press where the interior of "Slovenian anti-fascist" papers were printed, threw out the personnel enclosed and sealed the premises. It was alleged that other arrests of Slovenians had been carried out and that the local police involved were former Gestapo.

On 28th of May Tanjug reported Marshal Tito's speech in Ljubljana as follows: "Only a few days have passed since our troops were obliged to leave Carinthia and already we hear the cries of our Carinthian brethren and their shouts for help." On the same day Borba commented on an article in the Times and referred to the recent arrests of the National Liberation leaders in Carinthia. "That it happened in Carinthia is considered by our public opinion as the support of fascist elements and serious offenses against the Slovenians who were the main barrier of resistance against Hitler and Austria."

On 29th of May Borba again brought up the question of the alleged "Nazi Government at Klagenfurt" which remains under the protection of the Anglo-American Armies and accuses the Allies of closing their eyes while the Nazis persecute the Yugoslav fighters for national liberty. "What", says Borba "connection is there between the support of Renner's Nazi Government in Carinthia, with its determination to liquidate the remaining traces of Slovenians in Carinthia, and the declarations of the Crimean Conference."

1st June the Slovenski Procevalec published a declaration of the Vice President of the Regional National Committee for Slovenian Carinthia. "While the Yugoslav Army was leaving, people wept and begged the soldiers to remain. The Provisional Regional authority is pro-Fascist and incapable of solving

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On or about June the 3rd PR.VD. published an article as follows:

A Tass correspondent reported in a dispatch, which was printed in PR.VD., that a delegation of the Regional National Liberation Committee of Carinthia arrived in Ljubljana. The delegates asked that the population of Carinthia be protected from violence and atrocities to which they are subjected. They say that all sorts of fascist scum, beginning with former SS men down to Yugoslav quislings, headed by the executioner of the Slovenian people, Rupnik, Catholic Bishop Hofman and others, find not only shelter but are also given full freedom of action in Carinthia.

Many SS men, Medich gangsters and White Guards have been enlisted by the British Military Administration into police and gendarmerie set up in Carinthia. Protected by this administration, they commit unheard of crimes against newly-born democracy, against the Austrian and especially against the Slovenian population of Carinthia. This terror was especially intensified when

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complying with the and of the Allies, Yugoslav troops moved out of Carinthia, which they had been occupying since the German troops routed in Yugoslavia.

On May 23rd, the Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Carinthia in Celovace (Klagenfurt) were surrounded by British troops and all members of the committee, who were present, were arrested and carried away to an unknown destination.

Assemblies of the population and meetings are banned throughout Carinthia.

In Celovace, Belfak and other towns, armed Medices, Ustashi, and SS men, who pinned the British military badge on their Gestapo uniform, freely walk the streets.

Wholesale searches are made to round up men who participated in the guerrilla movement.

Consequently, a tense situation has arisen in Carinthia. The population is in depressed spirits. The people ask: "What will happen now? When will this terror end?" (By Tass)

On 4th of June Marshall Tito made a speech at Ledge in which he said that Carinthia is ours and promised that "we shall fight for her". June the 4th Tanjug reported that on June the 1st Marshal Tito received a delegation of representatives of the people of Slovenian Carinthia who declared that after the departure of the Yugoslav Army a reign of terror was carried out in Carinthia by former fascist elements. On the same day the Borba contained an article by Dr. Frank Votra containing a review of the "Fascist reign of terror that is now in full swing in Carinthia".

June the 5th, the Slovenski Procevalec published a statement by the Vice Chairman of the National Liberation for Italy that broad masses of the people expected that all war criminals and traitors would be made to answer but that they did not see this.

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