

WH/3/M

Chief of Station, Mexico

Chiefs of Station, San Jose, Panama & Caracas

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INLET/Operational - Trace Reply - Nikola ZIC (201-377475)

REF: HMMA 22150

Traces follow on Nikola ZIC, born 8 August 1921 at Punat Rijeka, Yugoslavia and currently assigned as Counselor, Yugoslav Embassy, Mexico City:

1. According to a fairly reliable defector source, Nikola ZIC was a UDB (Uprava Bratstva i Jedinstva - Administration of State Security) official in Rijeka in 1945-46, assigned to the City UDB. In 1946 a scandal broke out at the City UDB in Rijeka, involving corruption, stealing of official funds or similar matters, and the head of the city UDB (name unknown) was imprisoned in this connection. At that time ZIC was transferred to the UDB in Zagreb, but Source does not know whether ZIC himself was involved in the affair. Later on ZIC was transferred to Belgrade, but Source does not know whether to UDB or directly to the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs (SSFA). In the mid-'50's ZIC was employed in SSFA, his office was downstairs, 1.07, not in the Coordination Department (the Yugoslav foreign intelligence service). However, he worked with Miroslav SIBINOVIC (201-64553), an identified Coordination officer, and therefore Source assumes that ZIC was really a Coordination man. Source first met ZIC in Rijeka either in 1948 or 1946. Since then he has seen him a few times; he last talked to him in Belgrade in 1959 or 1960. (The source of the foregoing information defected from a commercial representation position in PEPRINE in July 1962.)

2. According to an [redacted] report, DENIJOSE names one Nikola ZIC as first assistant to the UDB Chief at Fiume and Susak, Yugoslavia in June 1948.

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3. A Yugoslav refugee interviewed by ODOPAL in January 1955 named Nikola ZIC, Major, born circa 1919, residing in Susak, as second in command of the civilian UDB in Zijeka, Yugoslavia. He was then alleged to be having an affair with Marija BULJ, who came to Austria during the summer of 1954 as an UDB agent.

4. According to a well-placed and reliable source, Nikola ZIC served in London from 1959-1962 as one of the assistants of the London Resident, under cover as Chief of the Consular Section of the Yugoslav Embassy in London. The source added that ZIC "had been assigned a difficult task by the Coordination Department." Source could not find out what it was, but learned that ZIC was preoccupied about it and feared that he would not be able to carry it out. Source described ZIC as "a bad and dangerous man."

5. [redacted] report states that Nikola ZIC came to London in January 1959 and replaced Bozidar GORDAN as head of the Yugoslav Consular Section. He was born on 31 August 1921 and, according to the British, there was no reason to doubt that his replacement was not also an intelligence officer.

6. Prior to his assignment to Mexico, ZIC served at SIFA Headquarters in Belgrade for one year. Enroute to Mexico, he stopped over in the United States and conferred for five hours with an identified Coordination officer.

7. He is first listed on the Diplomatic Official as of 1 August 1963, as Counselor of the Yugoslav Embassy, with residence at Prado Sur 235 (Lomas), and telephone number 26-66-23. He holds Passport No. D-011526. On 23 August 1963, he entered Costa Rica by air from Mexico and departed for Panama on 26 August by air. He departed Panama for Caracas, Venezuela, on 29 August and returned via Panama to Mexico on 31 August 1963.

8. Information copies of this trace are being sent to Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela, on the probability that Subject will travel in these areas again during his tour in Mexico City, and the respective Stations may wish to keep an eye on his activities.

END OF MESSAGE