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NAA: A1209, 1969/9049

Series number: A1209

Control symbol: 1969/9049

Barcode: 3054090

Number of pages: 10

DESPOT Njegoslav (Yago, K A), Yugoslav - Murder in Melbourne

Limited
— ACCESS

FILE No.

69/9049

PART No.

RETAIN PERMANENTLY
DISPOSAL AUTHORITY S.446 DISPOSAL CLASS 24-1-1

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET

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Australian Government



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**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983**

Series: A1209
Control Symbol: 1969/9049
Barcode: 3054090
Title: DESPOT Njegoslav (Yago, K A), Yugoslav - Murder in Melbourne
Decision Maker: Robert Newton
Designation: Access Examiner APS 6
Date: 19 May 2017

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested record.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the record requested
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information provided by other Commonwealth agencies upon which I have relied in formulating my decision.

Decision

I have decided to release this item for public access with the exception of certain material that is exempt under section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

One folio (number 1) has been wholly exempted, and six folios (A and 2-6) have been partially exempted from public access. The material exempted contains information relating to the security and international relations of the Commonwealth of Australia that continues to be sensitive.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This record contains:

- Information and/or intelligence whose disclosure could damage Australia's security and international relations.

Reasons for decision

- The exempted material contains information which reveals details of intelligence capability and operational procedures which are of continuing sensitivity. The disclosure of such details could compromise past and current procedures and could be expected to cause damage to the security and international relations of the Commonwealth within the meaning of s 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines records before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12** *What to do if we refuse you access* (www.naa.gov.au/about-us/publications/fact-sheets/fs12.aspx).

SECRET

A.S.I.C.

6

INWARD MESSAGE

SECRET

13 MAR 1969

SECRET

PRIORITY

TO CANBERRA

FROM HEADQUARTERS

MC1203007

[Handwritten signature]

*Seen by
PO1. At 1513*

FOR HEWITT FROM SPRY.

(FURTHER TO MY ADVICE TO YOU OF 12TH MARCH, 1969 RE NJEGOSLAV (YAGO) DESPOT (MY MC1203002)).

DESPOT RECEIVED HIS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLING BETWEEN 1932 AND 1942 IN DALMATIA.

AFTER WORLD WAR 11 NJEGOSLAV DESPOT SERVED AS A SCHOOL TEACHER IN A VILLAGE IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED, IN 1947, IN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND TO HAVE SERVED AS A PART-TIME TEACHER IN A TRADE SCHOOL UNTIL 1953 WHEN HE GAINED APPOINTMENT TO A SENIOR POSITION IN A SEAMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAU AT RIJEKA. WHILST SO EMPLOYED HE ALLEGED THAT HE REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH REQUESTS BY THE YUGOSLAV INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND, IN CONSEQUENCE, WAS DISMISSED AND IMPRISONED FOR THIRTY-FIVE DAYS BUT WAS RELEASED WITHOUT BEING FORMALLY CHARGED. ON RELEASE, IN 1954, HE PROCEEDED TO ZAGREB WHERE HE GAINED EMPLOYMENT IN A GOVERNMENT LAW OFFICE AND STUDIED LAW AT THE ZAGREB UNIVERSITY IN THE EVENINGS.

OFFICIAL RECORDS DISCLOSE THAT DESPOT ARRIVED AT FREMANTLE ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 1959 AND CONTINUED ON TO MELBOURNE WHERE HE WAS VARIOUSLY EMPLOYED UNTIL THE 6TH JUNE, 1960 WHEN HE OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT AS A CLERK IN THE ACCOUNTS SECTION OF THE VICTORIAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER RESIDING AT VARIOUS ADDRESSES IN ST. KILDA, MIDDLE PARK, EAST MELBOURNE, BRUNSWICK AND BALACLAVA DESPOT CAME TO LIVE AT SCOTT STREET, CAULFIELD, WHERE HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH CHARLES ALFRED HUGHES.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

MEMBERSHIP OF THE
Y.S.A. WHICH HE JOINED IN 1966. IN MARCH 1968 [REDACTED]
HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE Y.S.A.

APART FROM HIS MEMBERSHIP OF THE Y.S.A. DESPOT, AS FAR AS WE ARE
AWARE, HAD A LIMITED CIRCLE OF ASSOCIATES WITHIN THE YUGOSLAV
COMMUNITY. HOWEVER A TELEVISION REPORT RECENTLY STATED THAT HE
HAD ASSISTED OTHER MIGRANTS WITH TAXATION PROBLEMS. HE IS
DESCRIBED AS WELL GROOMED. [REDACTED] S
UNDERSTOOD NOT TO BE AN EXCESSIVE DRINKER. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VICTORIAN POLICE HAVE NOW ADVISED US THEY HAVE OBTAINED EVIDENCE
BY SEARCH THAT DESPOT WAS A HOMOSEXUAL. HOWEVER THE POLICE HAVE
NOT REACHED A FIRM DECISION AS TO WHETHER THE CRIME WAS EITHER OF
A HOMOSEXUAL OR POLITICAL NATURE.

ENDS 007 1244 HRS@

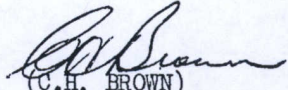
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The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department
CANBERRA A.C.T.

Forwarded for your information and retention.


(C.H. BROWN)
Regional Director, A.C.T.

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TOP SECRET

A.S.I.O.

INWARD MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

12 MAR 1969

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY
TO CANBERRA
FROM HEADQUARTERS
MC1203002

FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL FROM A.D.G./Q.

NJEGOSLAV (K.A. YAGO) DESPOT.

*Seen by
D.M. 15/3*

THE "AGE" NEWSPAPER OF THE 11TH MARCH, 1969 REPORTED THAT TWO MEN HAD BEEN FOUND SHOT DEAD IN A HOUSE IN SCOTT STREET, CAULFIELD VICTORIA. ONE OF THE MEN WAS NJEGOSLAV (YAGO) DESPOT AGED ABOUT 44 YEARS.

DESPOT WAS A MIGRANT WHO ENTERED AUSTRALIA FROM YUGOSLAVIA VIA AUSTRIA IN NOVEMBER 1959. HE WAS NATURALISED ON 5TH AUGUST, 1965.

[REDACTED] THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE YUGOSLAV SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION (Y.S.A.). [REDACTED]

THE Y.S.A. WAS ESTABLISHED IN MELBOURNE IN OCTOBER 1963 BY A SMALL GROUP OF YUGOSLAV MIGRANTS. ITS OSTENSIBLE AIMS WERE TO AID IMMIGRANTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA IN ASSIMILATING IN AUSTRALIA AND IN LEARNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

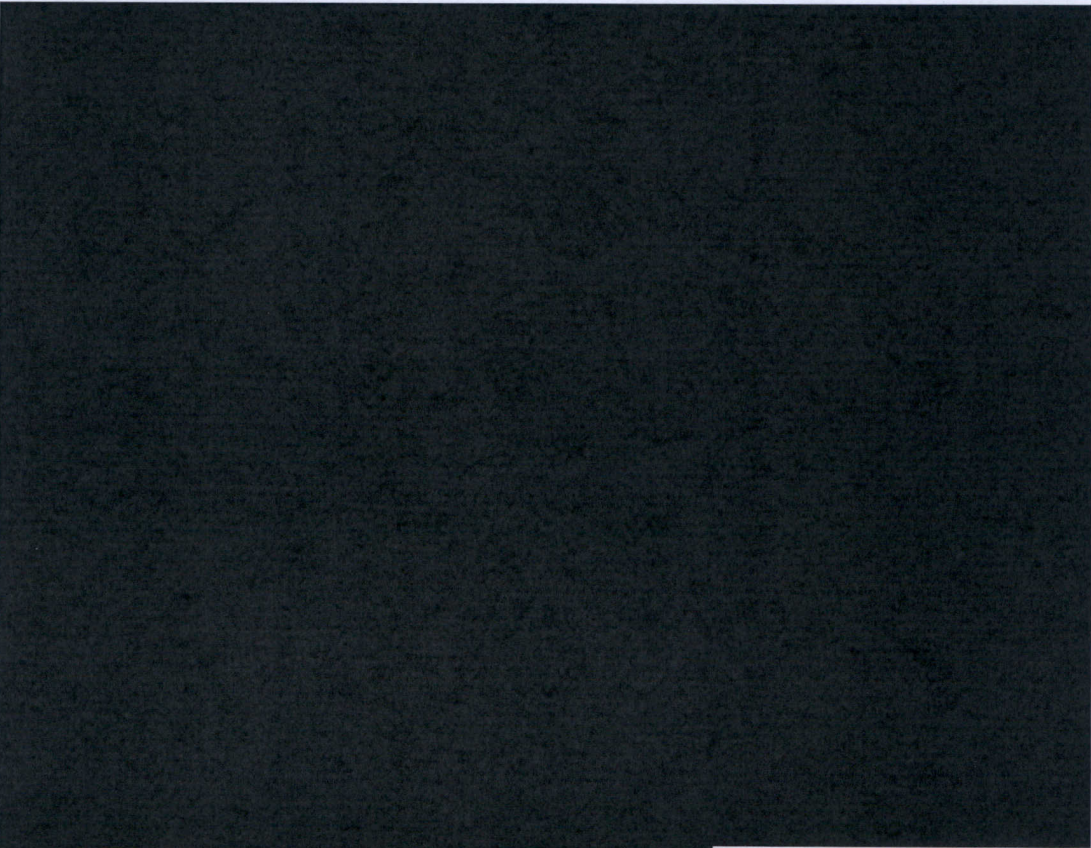
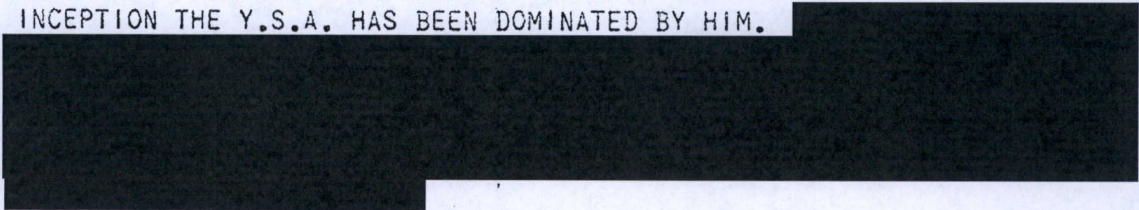
ON 6TH OCTOBER, 1963 MARJAN JURJEVIC WAS ONE OF FIVE YUGOSLAVS WHO ATTENDED THE FOUNDING MEETING OF THE YUGOSLAV SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION. IT WAS THERE STATED ONE OF THEIR FIRST AIMS WOULD BE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE VARIOUS CROATION LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA. [REDACTED]

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THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA PUBLICATION "TRIBUNE" REPORTED ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 1963 THAT A MEMBER OF THE Y.S.A. (PROBABLY JURJEVIC) ADDRESSED A MEETING AT EUREKA YOUTH LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN MELBOURNE. HIS ADDRESS WAS AN ATTACK ON CROATION EXTREMISM IN AUSTRALIA. (THE EUREKA YOUTH LEAGUE IS NOW CALLED THE YOUNG SOCIALIST LEAGUE AND IS THE YOUTH SEGMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA).

JURJEVIC WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE Y.S.A. IN NOVEMBER 1963. SINCE ITS INCEPTION THE Y.S.A. HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY HIM.



HE HAD DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE RECORD OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATIONS AND MAINTAINED A PRO-TITO AND ANTI-CROATION BIAS.

IS IS NOW CLEAR THAT JURJEVIC IS A PSYCHOPATH, AN ENDEMIC INTRIGUER WITH AN OBSESSION IN REGARD TO THE USTACHI (CROATION EXTREMISTS). IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE WILL SEND COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER SETTING THE BLAME FOR DESPOT'S MURDER AT THE FEET OF THE USTACHI.

IT WILL BE REALISED THAT THE YUGOSLAV COMMUNITY IS A VERY TROUBLESOME TARGET  IT IS RIDDLED WITH ETHNIC HATREDS, INTRIGUE, PERSONAL ENMITIES AND IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS.

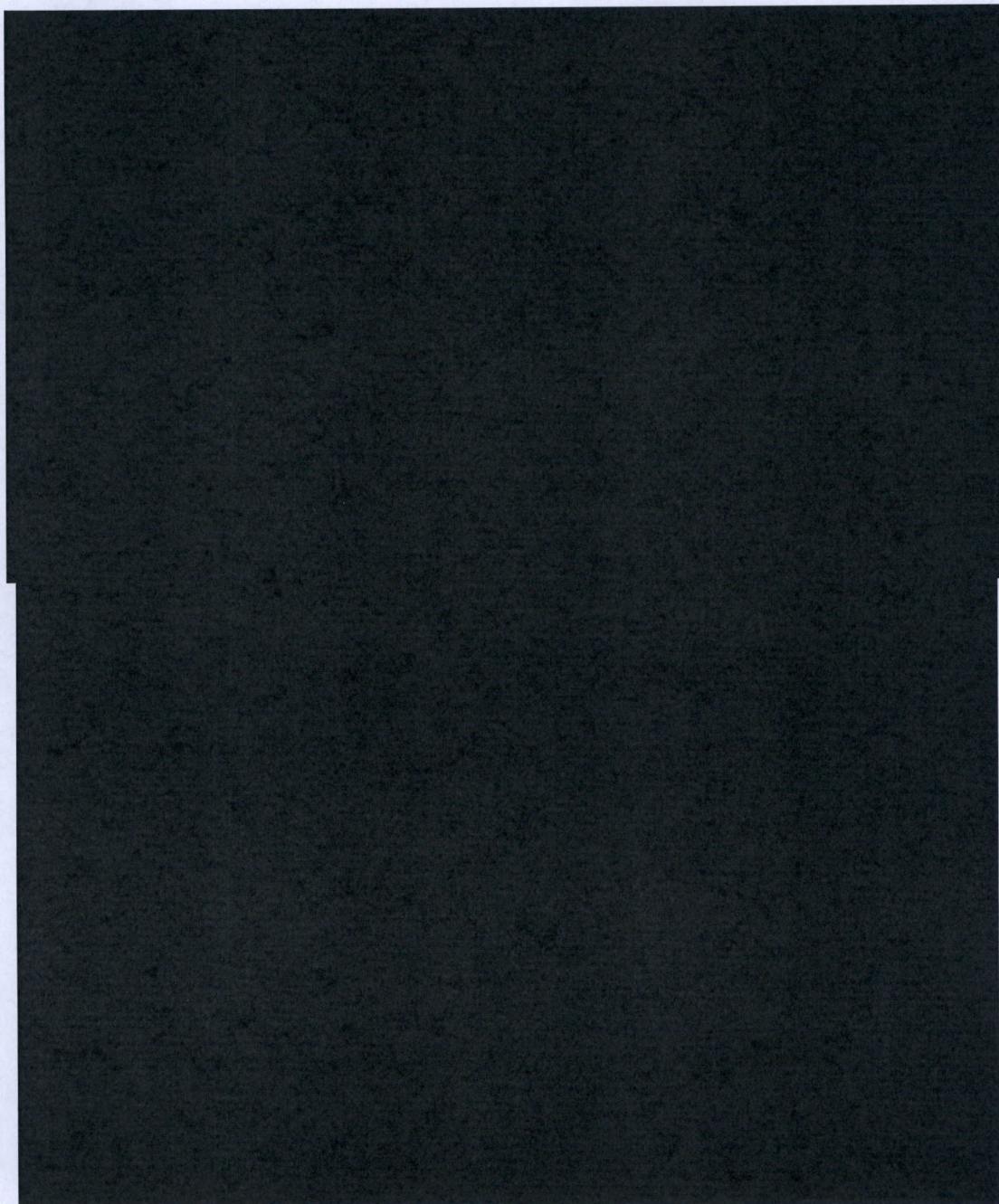
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THE Y.S.A. IS CURRENTLY LACKING IN MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT NO MORE THAN TWENTY PERSONS REGULARLY ATTENDED MEETINGS.

IN OCTOBER 1968 IT WAS REPORTED THAT MARJAN JURJEVIC HAD BEEN DISPLACED FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE Y.S.A.



THE OTHER PERSON MENTIONED IN THE NEWSPAPER REPORT AS HAVING BEEN MURDERED IN THE SAME HOUSE AS DESPOT, ONE CHARLES ALFRED HUGHES, AGED 39 YEARS [REDACTED]



TOP SECRET

BASIC FILE DOCUMENT

DATE	FILE TITLE	FILE NO.
11/2/71	DESPOT NSEGOSLAV (K.A. YAGO) DESPOT, YUCOSLAV, MURDER IN MELBOURNE	69/9049

CODING	SUBJECT INDEX	INITIALS
388/4	Brown Murder	
656/1	Murder - Cases	
868/2	Sub Accounts - General	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	} JW

RELATED PAPERS	FILE NO.
	69/7227

NAME INDEX	INITIALS
Despot	JW

ACTION OFFICER
PA JW