

Yugoslav Press Agency On Croatian Terror

Sept. 14 (NSIPS) — *Excerpted below are two press releases issued after the hijacking of a Boeing 727 jet in New York by a group of Croatian fascists Sept. 10 in which the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug attacked "circles in the U.S. government" who acted against the official policy of President Ford to attempt to wreck U.S.-Yugoslav relations and the ongoing North-South Conference in Paris.*

Belgrade, Sept. 11 — The latest action of air piracy, committed by members of a small group of fascist Yugoslav emigrés, once more points to the unavoidable conclusion of collusion between influential and powerful reactionary forces and groups of mercenaries, terrorists, and assassins. The hijacking of the U.S. plane carried out this morning by terrorists of Yugoslav origin is by extension a blatant act against Yugoslavia, well directed and thought out certainly not by the insane minds of the petty men who executed it, but by the machinery of certain reactionary forces in the United States who now present themselves to the world in their most sinister form, as they have on so many occasions in the past.

The inevitable impression is one of continuity in the campaign against and attempts at pressure on Yugoslavia. This campaign is designed to render worthless Yugoslavia's role in international relations and thwart the development of the otherwise good and existing relations between Yugoslavia and the United States. This anti-Yugoslav campaign was intensified in reactionary quarters in the United States, especially on the eve of the fifth conference of the top statesmen of Non-Aligned countries in Colombo, as an expression of the opposition of the forces of darkness and reaction not only to the policy of Yugoslavia, as one of a hundred or so countries and organizations within the Non-Aligned movement, but also to the policy of independence and sovereignty in general.

When that stage — which suffered foreseeable failure — of pre-Colombo pressure on Yugoslavia and Non-Alignment is taken as a thought-out political action, then the subsequent effort against Yugoslavia at this moment can only be understood as the bringing in of the element of terrorism and nefarious collusion with traitors to their own country who, naturally, cannot become loyal citizens of any other country, but only reliable tools for carrying out orders for terrorism and crime.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), instead of coming forward as an instrument for the prevention of terrorism, in this case has placed itself in the service of terrorism and appeared as the distributor to the press of cheap anti-Yugoslav tracts, behaving in an impermissible way from the standpoint of relations between the United States and Yugoslavia. The FBI now finds itself in the role of propagators of terrorism and terrorist activities.

On many past occasions — the last being shortly before Colombo when a bomb exploded in front of the Yugoslav mission in the United States — Yugoslavia has brought attention to the terrorist nature of extremist emigrés. Good relations with the United States, in which Yugoslavia has been and is interested, cannot be built through indulgence toward individuals or small groups of fascists opposed to Yugoslavia, especially in view of the forces involved.

It is quite astonishing that the U.S. Government has found it necessary, citing humanitarian reasons, to negotiate with the hijackers. This, as is widely known, is in contradiction with the officially proclaimed policy of that same government. Why this sudden change of attitude?

It is a sovereign right of every country to take charge of its stands. However, in this particular instance, the concessions made to hijackers were to the detriment of another country.

The Yugoslav public is surprised that the U.S. authorities have done virtually nothing in a full 30 years to punish the U.S.-based on anti-Yugoslav criminals. Nothing has been done on thwarting the barbarities of the terrorists from whose ranks a bunch of murderers and bombers were hired for this latest act against Yugoslavia and innocent U.S. citizens.

If the U.S. decides to continue with its present day tolerant attitude to fascist-terrorist individuals and groups, this latest incident will be an encouragement for a further escalation of terrorism. This is why the Yugoslav public rightly expects the U.S. government to radically change its attitude of tolerance to the terrorists and to take firm action against them in defense of friendly relations with Yugoslavia, in favor of which the U.S. has declaratively opted an which has always been welcomed in Yugoslavia along with its readiness to truly develop these relations on the basis of mutual respect, equality, independence and non-interference. Wrong are all those in the United States who think that the U.S.-Yugoslav relations can be maintained normally while, at the same time, the U.S. tolerates anti-Yugoslav terrorist activities.

Belgrade, Sept. 12 — The action of a small number of terrorists from the underworld of Yugoslav emigré groups was successfully thwarted in Paris this morning by a firm stand of the French police. It was very lucky that none of the passengers and crew members of the hijacked Boeing 727 have been injured.

However, such an outcome of this latest act of air piracy does not mean that this is the end of the barbarities of the fascist groups who emigrated to the United States of America after being defeated in the Second World War, unless the U.S. government decided to radically change its stand of tolerance toward these terrorists. It is this latest incident, in which the lives of innocent U.S. citizens were imperiled, that points to the necessity for the U.S. to change its attitude. On the other hand, the incident has once more proved how right the Yugoslav government was all these years in warning the U.S. government against the fascist and terrorist character of certain U.S.-based emigré groups.

In this context, the hijacking of the U.S. Boeing 727 is just one in a series of carefully planned anti-Yugoslav acts conceived in certain very powerful and very influential reactionary U.S. circles who oppose the development of friendly relations between the United States and Yugoslavia, and Yugoslavia's Non-Aligned and independent policy. The continuity of this campaign, the pressure on independent Yugoslavia, and the attempts by U.S. reactionary circles to have the present day-U.S. policy to Yugoslavia reconsidered were evident also on the eve of the Non-Aligned summit conference in Colombo.

This continued campaign and the terrorist acts, coupled with the immense coverage in the information media of this incident are obviously aimed at jeopardizing Yugoslavia's prestige and its international activity after Colombo and, in particular, on the eve of the U.N. General Assembly session.

It is noteworthy that those forces which found the suitable perpetrators of their designs in the bunch of fascist criminals and murderers, while following their permanent reactionary policy, are now particularly active in poisoning the good and friendly relations between Yugoslavia and the United States. They are, above all and as far as the U.S. is concerned, determined against the course officially adopted by the Ford Administration in its relationship to Yugoslavia. This policy, as is widely known, has been set down clearly and publicly and reiterated more than once by top-ranking officials. This policy was oriented toward a development of mutually advantageous, equal and friendly relations between the two countries.