Soviets might take Yugoslavia if Tito leaves offic Celebra

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Josip Broz Tito has forged a single nation from eight nationalities and six lanwhat happens after he is gone.

lems, the Yugoslav leader still is the man to whom ultimate decisions are referred. But there was referred. But there are reports he may retire to test how the transition process works.

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Some fear Tito's death may unleash disrupting forces that have been dormant during his three decades of rule. There also is widespread fear that the Soviet Union

from which it broke away 28 years

guage groups. As president he has held it together under communism for 30 years. The question now is

puppet regimes. Tito led his partisan troops to victory over both occupying armies and laid the foundations of the new state.

There seems to be no single man influential enough to inherit Tito's unchallenged role and popularity. However, he has devised an intri-

around this while accommodating the interests of the various national

Since 1972 Yugoslavia's top executive body is represented by a collective "Presidency" including a member for each of the six republics and two autonomous provinces. The Presidency is led by Tito, who has been named president for life or until he decides to retire.

Once Tito has left, the Presidency will elect annually a president for a one-year term, as provided for by the 1974 constitution.

Members of the Presidency are elected by the legislatures of the re-

for a five-year term.

The governments of the six republics and two provinces enjoy broad autonomy in internal matters. But a separatist trend has per-

sisted among the Croatians, the second largest national group after the Serbians. Tito has been hitting hard against it, however, and a drastic purge ousted nationalists from the Croatian Communist party cadres in

'The idea of a separatist state lingers on in the mind of Croatian intellectuals," says Milovan Djilas, Tito's wartime comrade who was later sent to prison, "but any organized nationalist movement can be easily broken up. They are isolated from the liberals in Croatia and from other Yugos-

The most popular among the members of the Presidency are Edvard Kardelj of Slovenia and Croatia's Vladimir Bakarie who both fought alongside Tito in the 1943-1944 partisan war.

Bakaric is reported to be ailing while Kardelj has recovered from surgery for an undisclosed ailment. Kardelj might be Tito's choice to

succeed him as party president.

Kardelj was the No. 2 man after

ing the three-day visit of Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev in mid-November.

During his talks with Tito, Brezhnev renewed a pledge that the Soviet Union will not interfere in Yugoslavia's internal affairs, and accused the West of spreading tales to spoil Yugoslav-Soviet relations.

When Jimmy Carter said before the U.S. presidential election that he would not send troops into Yugoslavia in the event of a Soviet inva-sion, he raised an issue that Yugoslavs have been trying to play down

Officials in the Yugoslav government and Communist party never state publicly they think the Soviet Union may send tanks into this Balkan nation as in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in neighboring Hungary in

Military invasion is one of the possibilities being discussed, but most

analysts agree this is very unlikely. The Soviet Union could be discouraged from taking such an extreme step by Yugoslavia's social and economic system that has developed in a way vastly different from that of all other European Communist

Experts credit the Yugoslav system with having raised the standard of living to such a level that would make it exceedingly difficult for the ingly pessimistic by Mi Soviets to absorb this country's 22 million inhabitants back into the centralized "orthodox" state system. In Yugoslavia there is virtually no shortage of consumer items.

Another factor discouraging a mil-itary invasion are the highly trained 65-year-old Djilas said in armed forces, equipped with some People's Defense.

Tito's Yugoslavia has pursued a so-called "nonalignment" policy that has put Belgrade between East and

But a ranking Yugoslav official says, "We know we need a direct dialogue with the United States and

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United States is interested lavia remaining free from bloc. But I would not say t have the same interest

An intellectual in Zagrel up his views as follows:

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party would be stronger with were then unknelp. Once Tito's charism Hallmark histo longer here, who can guarante the party can mainta Bethle Communist government

better than freedom fort This view is discount who spent nine years in breaking with Tito.

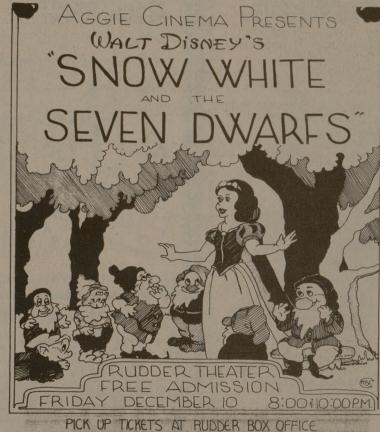
"Transition problems a solved inside the party in age with the armed forces to closely controlled by the party in age. grade home where he lives on

"I don't believe much in a invasion. It exists potential not in the foreseeable future think it is in the Soviet into

Djilas says he believes the tive Presidency will not a

'They will have to amen stitution. Yugoslavia needsa leader as symbol of unity." its recognition of the importance of AGGIE CINEMA PRESENTS MR. MAGOO'S CHRISTMAS CAROL WINNIE THE POOH Saturday Matinee - 2 P.M. Rudder Tower - 701 FREE Advance Tickets Available





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