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SOURCE Svenska Dagbladet.

DESCRIBES BULGARIA UNDER RED RULE

Belgrade, July -- Prime Minister Chervenkov of Bulgaria, through a purge of the Bulgarian Communist Party ranks conducted on his ascent to power and another purge conducted not long ago, has wiped out completely any possible Communist opposition to his policy. Chervenkov's policy vis-a-vis the USSR is one of complete subordination and acquiescence to the USSR's will and needs.

The policy pursued by the Bulgarian Communists in 1947 and 1948 of trying to convert their land into a mixed industrial-agrarian nation has been stopped. Chervenkov declared that the main task confronting the Bulgarian Communist leaders was not the struggle for electrification and industrialization, but the adaptation of the Bulgarian national economy to the needs of the USSR. Work on the factories and power plants stopped, and Bulgaria was forced to devote all her energies to the production of agricultural products and raw materials to be delivered to the USSR.

In 1946, the Soviet government had promised to deliver modern machinery to one of the largest power plants the Bulgarians were constructing. The name of the power plant was to be the "Traycho Kostov Plant," but with Kostov's subsequent arrest, the name was changed to the "Stalin Plant." In 1948, the Russians made the first shipment of machinery; it turned out to be old machinery of English manufacture for which the Russians no longer had any use. The same situation prevailed with other large industrial projects for which the Russians had promised delivery of machinery and equipment.

In consequence of the suspension of the electrification program, the whole industrialization program collapsed. During all of 1949 and the early months of 1950, not one single factory of importance was erected. The situation might not have been so bad had the Bulgarians been able to export their agricultural products, but their Russian "protectors" denied them this. Instead, they were required to sell their commodities at very low prices to the USSR, which in turn sold the surplus on the world market. For example, two-thirds of the Bulgarian tobacco crop goes to the USSR. The Bulgarians have difficulty in selling the remaining third, as the Russians undersold them with Bulgarian tobacco on the world market. Most of the rose oil, one of the most important Bulgarian export products, goes to the USSR at prices determined by the USSR.

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Under those circumstances, the Bulgarians can import only from the USSR. But while the USSR avails itself of Bulgaria's total production, Bulgaria has access to USSR surplus only and then at very high prices.

It is only natural that the Bulgarian people, like those in all the other People's Democracies, are sinking even deeper into apathy and despair. Fear and want dominate their lives. The real value of a monthly salary of 6,000 leva can best be determined if one compares it to the price of a meal at a second-class restaurant in Sofia -- between 700 and 1,000 leva. The sheer effort required to keep themselves alive leaves them no time for politics. Possibly that is one of the reasons one cannot speak of any organized resistance in Bulgaria, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people in the cities hate their Russian employers. The other reason is that the anti-Communist parties and organizations have been so completely crushed, and the people placed under such close surveillance by the Bulgarian and Russian police, that it would be inconceivable to form new centers of resistance. -- Bretholz, Svenska Dagbladet's foreign correspondent.

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