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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

STRENGTHEN BULGARIAN BORDER TROOPS, TIGHTEN SOVIET CONTROL;
 REPORT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY, SABOTAGE IN BULGARIA, RUMANIA

The following report gives information on military preparations in Bulgaria and Rumania and guerrilla activity in Bulgaria as noted in Turkish newspapers during the period 6 - 14 May 1951. Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Military Activity

According to a 10 May dispatch from Edirne, immigrants arriving in that city reported that fortifications are being constructed by night along the Greek and Turkish borders and that troops were being concentrated in these areas.(1) These reports were confirmed by a Bulgarian civilian who arrived in Edirne by way of Hamzabeyi village (Lalapasa District) on 11 May. He stated specifically that large numbers of troops had been sent to the villages of Buyuk Leska and Kucuk Leska in the Dervishka Mogila area on the Turkish-Bulgarian border. The same source also reported that all technical personnel of the Bulgarian and Rumanian armies are members of the Soviet Army and that every Bulgarian unit commander has a Soviet assistant.(2)

Other reports emanating from Bulgaria assert that the Bulgarian General Staff is now directly controlled by Soviet Army officers and that it is believed that a Soviet marshal will shortly be appointed commander of the Bulgarian Army. According to the same reports, recruiting offices have sent letters to all reservists, ordering them to active duty; soldiers scheduled for release on 1 May 1951 are being kept under arms and all members of the 1931 class have been called up.(3)

According to a 5 May Turkish News Agency dispatch from Belgrade, refugees reaching there from Bulgaria have reported that Bulgarian Macedonians living in areas close to the Yugoslav border are being deported to northern Bulgaria, southern Dobrudzha, and along the Black Sea.(4) According to a 10 May dispatch of the same agency from Edirne, immigrants arriving there report that Turks living in the Greek border area -- specifically in Krumovgrad, Kurdzhali, Nevrokop, Smolyan, and Momchilgrad -- are being expelled and sent to the Dobrich /now Tolbukhin/ area.

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Other reports reaching Belgrade from Rumania indicate that the Rumanian government is afraid of sabotage by patriotic citizens and is therefore taking measures to guard factories and installations vital to her war industry. In this connection, the number of guard units in the Ploesti oil fields has been doubled. Sabotage activities in the provinces surrounding the oil fields reportedly have increased to such an extent that the government has been obliged to declare martial law there.(1)

Guerrilla Activity

According to certain Bulgarian politicians who have fled to Yugoslavia recently, Chobanof, Bulgarian Minister in Ankara, during his recent trip to Bulgaria visited the Belen labor camp near Svishtov to talk with Draganof, who is considered to be the secret leader of the Bulgarian anti-Communist guerrillas. Chobanof reportedly asked Draganof to order the guerrillas to cease their activities and to surrender since they could not possibly withstand the Soviet Army, and promised that if the guerrillas did surrender, Draganof would be released and the guerrillas pardoned. Draganof is understood to have rejected the proposals and to have asserted that the struggle would be continued regardless of cost.

It has also been reported that Asen Stamboliski, son of the famous Aleksandr Stamboliski, has retired to the Shipka Mountains accompanied by 800 guerrillas. Guerrilla activity in the border areas has caused the government to dispatch the 33d Infantry Regiment from Svishtov and the 19th Infantry Regiment from Gorna Dzhumaya [now Blagoevgrad] in an effort to suppress it.(5)

According to information obtained from Greek military sources, the outbreak of guerrilla resistance activity and peasant opposition to the Sofia regime has resulted in Premier Chervenkov's being flown to Moscow in a special plane to receive "new instructions." The same sources say that during his absence, rumors arose that he had fled to a foreign country and that he would be replaced by Interior Minister Poptomov. The sources add that Chervenkov has now returned, but that a struggle for power is actually taking place between him and Poptomov.(6)

SOURCES

1. Istanbul, Vatan, 11 May 51
2. Ibid, 12 May 51
3. Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 11 May 51
4. Istanbul, Vatan, 6 May 51
5. Ibid, 10 May 51
6. Ibid, 14 May 51

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