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REPORTS ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN BULGARIA
(Enclosures to State D// 1670 and D// 1689 - French)

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BULGARIAN INTELLIGENCE REPORT DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1951

Stalin's statements to Pravda have been headlined by all Bulgarian newspapers. These statements have not made the faintest impression on the Bulgarian people, who have rightly judged them to be of very little value. Aside from the long and numerous articles of the newspapers on this subject, which are merely paraphrases of the words of the "great master," no one has been greatly moved by the assertions of the Soviet dictator. Stalin's statements are considered as propaganda by the people.

The statements, lectures, and declarations which have caused comments among the Bulgarians are not those of the Soviets but those which come from the outside, free world. The Bulgarian people are circulating these comments from the free world like wildfire, because it is from the free world that Bulgaria is expecting its deliverance.

Under such conditions it would not be proper to speak of the reactions of the Bulgarian people to Stalin's statements. Naturally the Bulgarian leaders laud Stalin's interview and give numerous paraphrases.

It appears that the Bulgarian leaders are preparing some sort of a new political trial. In view of this forthcoming ~~trial~~ trial, all of the members of the Central Committee of the opposition Socialist party (dissolved after the trial of Nikola Petkov) including ~~the~~ secretary-general Kosta Lulchev, have been brought from the various prisons/where they were serving terms, by the State Security. According to sources close to the dissolved Socialist party, it would probably be a new trial of the agrarian followers of the late Nikola Petkov. During the trial, the Socialist leaders would be forced to be the main witnesses for the prosecution.

The main purpose of the trial would be to spread terror again among the peasants. The trial would show what fate awaits them if they engage in subversive activities.

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There have been mass arrests of discharged Bulgarian army officers. These arrests are acts on the part of the Bulgarian leaders to forestall any resistance or thoughts of resistance.

Some interesting details have come to light on the death of the well-known Socialist leader Krastio Pastukhov at the Sliven prison in 1949. The source is reputable and is in close contact with the old opposition groups. According to him, Pastukhov was killed in his cell on the night of 24 - 25 August 1949 by a common criminal named Anton Antonov. It cannot be said with certainty that the assassin, who strangled his victim, acted through Communist inspiration, but it is extremely peculiar that a common criminal should have been put for the night in the cell of Pastukhov, who was considered one of the most dangerous political prisoners in Bulgaria. We are forced to believe that Antonov did not act on his own initiative but rather carried out previous instructions.

Naturally, the assassin disappeared from the Sliven prison at the same time that his victim was removed.

The condition of the peasants who have not joined a cooperative is becoming more difficult every day. Food is extremely hard to get, and many peasants are forced to desert their villages and sign up as construction workmen in the nearby towns. Only in this way can they get the weekly bread ration for their families. Reports from Stalin (formerly Varna) and Pleven state that these workmen line up before the bakeries which sell unrationed bread at 0400 hours. They buy the two loaves which are the maximum that anyone may get, every day so as to have a supply to take back to their families at the end of the week.

A complaint of a parent who took his son to the Second Polyclinic of Sofia for a blood analysis, was published in the official organ of the Bulgarian Communist Party on 12 February. The parent expresses his indignation at seeing the doctor make the puncture using an ordinary pen with half of the point broken. There was no regulation needle available.

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This shows the true state of affairs and not the Communists' boasts on their achievements in the field of public health.

On 16 February, the 1951 plan of the Bulgarian-Czechoslovak Cultural Agreement was signed at Sofia. The plan provides for the exchange of academicians, professors, intellectuals, writers, artists, and cultural delegations.

On 24 February, the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Cultural Workers will meet at Sofia. All of the People's Democracies and the USSR will send official delegations, some of which have already arrived in Bulgaria.

On 20 February, a delegation of Bulgarians left by airplane for Berlin to attend the regular session of the World Peace Council. The Bulgarian delegation included Professor Georgi Nadyakov, president of the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace, Ludmil Stoyanov, vice-president of the same committee, and Professor Metodi Popov.

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The Second Congress of the Union of Bulgarian Youth was held in Sofia 21 - 24 February 1951. Even though the minutes of the debates and speeches are of no great interest and only serve to show the total submission of the Union to the Communist Party, the government policy toward the Bulgarian youth is worth examining.

Since their rise to power, the Communists have never turned their attention from the new generation, whom they expect to make the support of their domination, and from whom they expect to draw their most trusted elements who will be molded in the pattern of Communist ideology.

The methods that the Communist have adopted to gain control over all Bulgarian youth do not differ essentially from the methods which were used to dissolve the political parties which had formed the Fatherland Front. The Communist Party seized control when the Soviet Army entered Bulgaria on 9 September 1944. At that time, the Fatherland Front was composed of the Communist, Agrarian, and Social-Democratic Parties and the Zveno.

Each of these organizations had a youth group. By dint of pressure, the Communists first removed the youth leaders who were not to their liking and later fused all these independent youth groups into the Youth Union. The Communists promised that the Youth Union would follow the policies of the Fatherland Front and not those of any individual party of the coalition government. Once this Union had been formed, the Communists lost no time in ridding the Union of all elements which had played important roles in their individual parties.

Naturally, the Communists quickly grabbed all the key positions and installed trusted Communists in them. The Bulgarian youth was to be transformed into a Communist tool, imbued with Marxist theories.

From this time on, all the Communists' efforts were directed toward molding the Bulgarian youth, beginning at the earliest age. Nothing has been omitted to increase the number of regimented children and youth.

The Youth Union is divided into three different formations, but each is dependent on the others.

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- a) The political instruction of the very young children who are not in school. This instruction is started with the three-year olds.
- b) The "Sertemvriyche" Organization, which is a group of pupils of the first 7 years of school.
- c) The Youth Union, which comprises the youth between 14 and 21 years of age.

Although the methods vary according to the age of the children, these three Communist organizations follow one and the same purpose - to remove the children from parental influence, to imbue them with Communist theories, and in the years to come to make them faithful pioneers of the Communist government.

For the very young there are kindergartens in each quarter, where the parents are forced to send their children to "play" all day under the care of qualified nurses. The ostensible reason for the formation of these kindergartens is to free the mothers of the care of their children and to permit them to do other housework. The parents who refused in the early days to send their children to these kindergartens were treated as Fascists.

The entertainments are nothing but Communist propaganda, and the same observation is applicable to the songs, which are interminable praises of Stalin, the government, and the local leaders. The games are grotesque comedies and do not resemble in the least the games of our children. The political element dominates these "games" and the stories are all about the important Communist deeds in the class struggle.

The final straw is the thanks that the children must say when they receive their free milk and croissant. These are distributed by the UNICEF under the guise of a gift from "Good Uncle Stalin," and the children are required to say "Thank you, dear Uncle Stalin."

The parents are deeply worried to see their children come home at night more and more influenced by Communist propaganda. The worst of it is that the parents are powerless because the kindergarten teachers use their young charges to spy upon their parents.

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The "Septemvriyche" organization in this way receives girls and boys who are now ready for the stronger ~~XXXXXXXX~~ dose of poison which will be administered. Just as the parents are forced to send their children to the kindergartens, the pupils of the primary and preparatory schools are forced to enroll in the "Septemvriyche" if they wish to continue their studies. If the pupils refuse to join this organization, they will not be admitted to the Gymnasium and must terminate their studies.

In the opinion of the writer, the "Septemvriyche" is the most influential organization, and its powers greatly exceed those of the other two organizations. The children who come under the influence of the "Septemvriyche" are at the most impressionable age. For this reason the organization does not let an hour of the day pass without political meetings on Marxist subjects, sports, literary and musical gatherings, and other conferences where the Communists naturally occupy the leading roles.

The Youth Union is not the only organ for promoting Communism, because the teaching in the schools and universities has only one purpose - to create good Communists. Every subject presented is full of Communist propaganda, and a professor of mathematics, for example, will not end his period without speaking of Communism or the large and incomparable contribution of the Soviets to the multilateral development of science. For this reason, the corps of teachers has been carefully purged of all elements who could not successfully apply this policy. The teaching level in Bulgaria has been greatly lowered since the Communists came into power, but what difference does that make if the schools turn out good Marxists?

Very little interest is taken in the actual studies because in the 1949 school year about one out of eight pupils was forced to repeat his year. Out of 500,000 pupils in the primary schools 90,000 were not promoted; out of 300,000 lycee pupils, 35,535.

The situation in the Gymnasiums, where the Youth Union has charge of organizing the young students, differs only from that in the preparatory schools by stressing even more the inculcation of the Communist principles. The same observation can be made for the universities.

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In the universities the student automatically becomes a member of the Youth Union, and his attendance the Union meetings is more closely checked than in the preceding years. The students at the universities must be especially attentive because the slightest slip may lead to dismissal from the Youth Union and then even to dismissal from the school or university.

Taking advantage of the expected enthusiasm of its members, the Youth Union organized, as soon as it was formed, work to be performed by its members during the long summer vacations. This work included the building of roads, railroads, bridges, and other structures. The plan was catastrophic because all the young Bulgarians forced to work at this back-breaking labor performed it so poorly that the only results were loss of time, material, and health.

A monument to this forced labor is the railroad line from Sofia to the Georgi Dimitrov mines at Pernik, a distance of 30 kilometers. The very first train, carrying the officials who were to inaugurate the opening of the line, caused the rails to sink into the roadbed, which has^d not been properly prepared to carry such a load.

At the Second Congress of the Youth Union it was announced that such work would be abandoned. However, nothing was said of the decision to spend 50 days of the vacations in military training. This training was to be effected in special camps where the lycee and university students would supplement the daily theoretical training after school with practical experience.

The importance of the Union of Bulgarian Youth is shown by the following data. Out of a population of about seven million people, the Union has at present 737,000 members, of which 263,000 are girls. To these should be added the 200,000 members of the "Septemvriyche." This gives a total of about one million members, not counting the large number of very small children in the kindergartens. According to official figures, 46,000 boys and girls, all members of the Youth Union, acted as agitators in the Communist agitation groups during the year 1950.

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During the speeches at the last Congress, it appears that the young people of the villages and the laborers show the greatest opposition to being incorporated into the Union. These young people are the ones who do not attend school and on whom the youth organizations can put less pressure.

The place of the Youth Union in the Communist Party is defined in the speeches of the government orators. They announce that the Union is to be the source of supply for the Communist Party and the Army. From the Union will come the new personnel of the government and the armed forces.

The machinations of the youth organizations are cleverly blended, and the Communists know that they will attain their goals by patience and work, if the future gives them enough time.

The boys and girls over 12 or 13 have not yet been poisoned by the youth organizations. Their indoctrination could not be started early enough, and their belief and trust in their parents has been stronger than the propaganda of the youth organizations.

The Communists are quite aware of this situation and distrust this class of young people just as they distrust the present generation. The present generation has been transformed into a pack mule which will be used, according to the Communists' statements, "to assure a happy future for the coming generations." A very serious danger threatens the young people who are now under 12, because they can not help being strongly influenced by the systematic work of the Communists.

Unfortunately, the present threat to the Bulgarian young people is so great and so well organized that the Communization of the children in the primary schools is almost inevitable, if the Communist regime remains in power in Bulgaria.

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