

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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### EVALUATION OF SOURCE



- Indicative of Italo-Bulgarian cultural activity in Italy, courses in the Bulgarian language and literature at the Roman Institute for Eastern Europe have been established by Olga Balabanov, wife of a Bulgarian diplomat. Similarly, the Italian Professor Enrico Damiani, teacher of Bulgarian literature at the Roman Institute, went to Sofia on his own initiative to teach Italian letters there. He worked without a salary from either the Italian or Bulgarian governments. When the Bulgarian government set up an Italian language faculty before the war, Damiana was invited to head the department in Sofia, but he was compelled by other duties to refuse. He returned to Rome and founded the Bulgarian Life, a magazine which was quite successful.
- An Italo-Bulgarian Association in Rome had also been active for years, founded by a group of students and by the Bulgarian colony without the intervention of the two governments. Among those who were president in the past are Damiani, Professors Ettore Lo Gatto and Eugenio Morelli. All Bulgarian cultural associations and societies in Rome were suspended because of the war. The course in Bulgarian language and literature at the University of Rome, however, is still being given.
- Dr. Ivan Ivanov, the Bulgarian representative to Rome, intends to resuscitate these various associations for propaganda purposes to win the sympathy of the Italians for the present Bulgarian regime. Ivanov recently called a meeting of the Bulgarian colony in Rome to elect officers for a new association. The candidates were chosen by Ivanov. They were opposed by the colony which refused to vote. Ivanov nevertheless appointed his candidates; among them are members of the Bulgarian diplomatic corps whose presence in such an association is irregular. The officers of the new Bulgarian Association in Italy are as follows:
  - President: Dr. Bojo Gospodinov, a 55 year old veterinary. He has lived in Italy for more than 25 years and is considered well-to-do and anti-Communist.
  - Vice President: Dr. Ghencio Anghelov, a well-to-do pharmacist in touch with Yugoslavs. He is a Communist.
  - Secretary: Dimitri Tomalevski, a Bulgarian Legation employee and member of the Communist Party.
  - Treasurer: Dima Kovaceva-Marceni, a resident of Italy for more than 20 years. She manages a shoe factory and is in touch with Italian communists.
- Ivanov also proposed forming a Control Committee, but the plan failed since Dr. Janko Penov, a Communist, refused the chairmanship of the Committee.

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-2-

Penev refused, it was said, because according to Ivanov's directives, Committee members would have to spy on individual Bulgarians in Rome and report to the Committee.

5. Despite colony protests, Nicola Mirev was appointed as administrative secretary. Mirev, a member of the Zveno Party, is a member of the Legation in Rome. He is assisted by Assen and Ilia Peikov, two brothers who are Communists.
6. The President of the Association represents the opposition trend in the Bulgarian colony to the present Bulgarian regime. He hesitated for a month before accepting the post, finally making up his mind because of a fear of reprisals on relatives in the homeland. Ivanov has warned him not to leave the Association and to take full responsibility for the founding of the organization.

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