

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
 SUBJECT The Agrarian Youth Organizations in Bulgaria
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I. General

1. In 1947, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party was composed in general of the Bulgarski Zemljedelski Narodni Seuz (Bulgarian Agrarian Peoples' Organization). It had two specific parts: (a) Bulgarski Academican Zemljedelski Seuz (Bulgarian Students' Agrarian Organization), and (b) Mladeski Zemljedelski Seuz (Young Agrarian Organization). Membership to this group was limited by age from fourteen to twenty-five years. On 4 September 1947, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, together with its Bulgarian Students' Organization and its Young Agrarian Organization, were banned by the Communist regime.

II. Bulgarian Students' Agrarian Organization

2. The Bulgarian Students' Agrarian Organization was founded in Prague, in 1922, by Bulgarian students who had identified themselves with the Agrarian Party. Asen Pavlov (Minister of the Agrarian Party from 1944 to 1946 and at that time an engineering student in the University of Prague), and Kiril Popov (a third engineering student at the University of Prague) were the driving force in organizing this group.
3. Asen Pavlov became the Chief of the Organization in 1922; in that same year a branch of the organization was formed in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, under Dr. Dimi Gochev. In 1927, the headquarters of the organization was set up in Sofia under Dr. Giorgi Dimitrov. By this time a branch had been formed in Mannheim, Germany, under Tontso Tenev, and another in Paris, France, under the leadership of Dr. Mateev (fmu) and Dr. Cokov (fmu). In 1927, the organization had over 2,000 members in Bulgaria.
4. In 1934, all political parties were banned in Bulgaria. The organization at that time existed as a small illegal group under the leadership of Dr. Vlado Vanpirski; it remained in this status until 1938, when political parties were again permitted in Bulgaria.
5. In 1938, Tsenko Barev became the Chief of the organization and remained so until 1941, when the Germans sentenced him to life imprisonment. In addition, Sergi Zlatanov of the Agrarian Party was sentenced to death; Slavi Popignatov was also sentenced to death, and his brother, Mitko

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Popignatov was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. Nikola Gernev was also sentenced to death. They were accused by the Germans of participating in espionage activities for the Allies. However, they all remained in prison until 1944, when they were released.

6. From 1941 until 1944, the organization did not function because of the efficient counter-measures of the Germans. In 1944 Tsenko Barev, released from prison, again headed the organization. In 1945, Angel Pandev was Chief and was succeeded in 1946 by Dimitar Volkov.
7. In 1947, the Communists destroyed the organization, in March imprisoning Dimitar Volkov, Petar Antonov, and Giorgi Golobov and on 4 September officially abolishing the Agrarian Party and its auxiliaries.
8. In 1947 the Bulgarian Students' Agrarian Organization had a membership of 2,500 students throughout Bulgaria. At that time no branches existed outside of Bulgaria because the Communist regime did not permit students to study in foreign countries unless they were Communists.
9. The following is the main breakdown of this organization in 1947:

a. General Secretary and Chief	Dimitar Volkov
b. Organization Secretary	Giorgi Golobov
c. Administration Secretary	Vasil Monechki
d. International Cultural Relations Secretary	Petar Antonov
e. Liaison Secretary for International Branches	Valchin Valchinov
f. Editor of newspaper, <u>Sejac</u> (Sower)	Anna Kovacheva
10. In March 1947, with the arrest of Volkov, Antonov and Golobov, the following changes took place:

a. General Secretary and Chief	Angel Maliganov
b. Organization Secretary	Volcho Vangelov
c. Administration Secretary	Dancho Tenchev
d. International Cultural Relations Secretary	Vasil Monechki
e. Liaison Secretary for International Branches	Valchin Valchinov
f. Editor of newspaper <u>Sejac</u>	Anna Kovacheva

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11. Branches throughout Bulgaria existed in the following places:

- Plowdiv - At the University. Governing members were Giorgi Gernef, Slavenov (fma), and Giorgi Dimitrov.
- Varna - At the University. Governing members were Ljubka Janeva and Angel Ivanov.
- S. Zagora - At the Teachers' College.
- Dupnica - At the Teachers' College.
- Kyustendil - At the Higher Agrarian Academy (for girls only).
- Svistov - At the University.
- Ruse - At the Engineering College.
- Sumen - At the Teachers' College.

III. Young Agrarian Organization

12. This organization was formed in 1921, in Sofia, by Hristo Kosovski, who governed it until 1923, when it was disbanded. In 1927 the group was reorganized by Asen Pavlov, Boris Bumberov, Stefan Canov, and Dr. Giorgi Dimitrov. From 1931 to 1934, it was governed by Krum Zlatkov and Angel Janev. In 1934, this organization, together with all political parties, was banned; but it remained an illegal small group under the leadership of Petar Serbinski, who had been its head. It came out openly in 1944 and remained in the open until 4 September 1947, when it was again banned.

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- a. Asen Pavlov - Reported to be living at No. 8 or No. 6 Solca Street, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- b. Boris Bumberov - Reported to be living at No. 168 Rakovska Street, Sofia.
- c. Kiril Popov - Placed in the Kutsian Concentration Camp in Pernik in August, 1947.
- d. Dr. Dimu Gochev - Placed in the Bogdanov Dol Concentration Camp in August 1947.
- e. Tontso Tenev - Reported to be in Paris at the present time. He is reported to be ill.
- f. Dr. Mateev - Reported to be in Istanbul since 1946.
- g. Dr. Cokov - In 1946 was placed in the Rosica Concentration Camp, located near Sevlijevsko. He was released in 1947 and is reported to be at present in Pleven.
- h. Dr. Vlado Vanpirski - Reported to be at present in the Kutsian Concentration Camp.
- i. Tsenko Barev - Reported to be in Paris.

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- j. Slavi Popignatov - At present in Bogdanov Dol Concentration Camp in Pernik.
- k. Mitko Popignatov - (brother of Slavi Popignatov) - reported to be at present in Jambol. He was never arrested.
- l. Nikola Gernev - Reported at present in a concentration camp at Plovdiv.
- m. Giregi Golobov - In 1947 was placed in the Bogdanov Dol Concentration Camp and released in 1948. His present whereabouts are unknown.
- n. Vasil Monschki - Was never arrested. He continued his studies and received an MD degree at the University of Sofia. His present whereabouts are unknown.
- o. Petar Antonov - At present in the Batanovei Concentration Camp in the Pernik area.
- p. Valchin Valchinov - Was expelled from the University of Sofia in 1947. Reported to be at present at the village Volchitrn, near Pleven.
- q. Anna Kovacheva - Reported to be in a concentration camp, whereabouts unknown.
- r. Angel Maliganov - Was in the Kutsian Concentration Camp. Presently reported to be at the village Kozarsko near Pazardzjik.
- s. Dancho Tenchev - Was never arrested. Reported to be at present a student of agriculture at the University of Sofia.
- t. Giorgi Gernev - Was never arrested. Reported at present to be a student at the University of Plovdiv.
- u. Slavencov (fnu) - Was never arrested. Present whereabouts unknown.
- v. Giorgi Dimitrov - Was never arrested and at present is reported to be a student at the University of Sofia.
- w. Ljubka Jeneva - Was never arrested. Finished her schooling and at present is reported to be in Plovdiv.
- x. Angel Ivanov - Was never arrested. Reported at present to be a student at the University of Varna.
- y. Dimitar Vichev - Reported to be at present at the main prison in Sofia.
- z. Giorgi Arsov Vulkanov - Was in the Kutsian Concentration Camp. Reported in August, 1947 to have escaped. Present whereabouts unknown.

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- aa. Angel Derzanski - Was never arrested and at present is reported to be practicing law in Sofia.
- bb. Milka Genadieva - Reported to be at present in Paris.
- cc. Volcho Vangelov - At present in the DP camp at Lavrion, Greece.
- dd. Dimitar Volkov - At present at the Lavrion DP camp in Greece.
- ee. Asan Stamboliski - Was never arrested. At present reported to be in Sofia.

IV. Situation Inside Bulgaria

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14. [REDACTED] the Communist control of Bulgaria is so ruthless and so efficient that it is doubtful whether any bona fide opposition groups exist as an organization. From 4 September 1947, when their organization was banned by the Communist regime, no contact existed among the members; it is doubtful whether any successful illegal committee exists at the present date. Penetration and control have been so complete by the Communist Secret Police that the leading members of this organization have no trust in anyone and their sole desire appears to be to find ways and means of leaving Bulgaria.

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15. [REDACTED] a possibility exists of organizing among the top-level personalities some kind of an underground committee, they themselves are so frightened by Communist counter-measures employed that they would not want to be a part of any such organization. They make stereotypic statements that if war broke out between Russia and the United States the people in Bulgaria would rise up in mass against the Communist regime but they have no idea of where the leadership for such an uprising would come from. While they have heard of friction within the Communist Party in Bulgaria between Moscow-trained Dimitrov groups and Nationalist Kolarov Communist groups, they do not believe that the Kolarov group has the slightest chance of gaining the upper hand. They claim that in September 1944, after Dimitrov and Tito had reached an agreement on the Pirin (Macedonia), the Communist penetrated VMRO was directed to fulfill that agreement. In 1946, the Communist Party in Bulgaria issued orders to the people of Macedonia to call themselves Macedonians and not Bulgarians, and VMRO was outlawed. Since the Tito Cominform split, VMRO was reactivated and stress was laid on an independent Macedonia under Bulgarian influence.

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