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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria/Turkey

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 18 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Activities of Bulgarian Refugees in Turkey

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[redacted]

1. At the present time there are about 250 Bulgarian refugees in Turkey. Approximately 25 percent of these are members of the Agrarian Party and are led by the former deputies Georgi Kolev, Dr. Veliko Mateev and Shopov (fnu). A total of 33 percent are former Fascists, members of Tsankov's Party, army officers who collaborated with the Germans, and members of other groups of the extreme Right. A group described as "pro-Turkish Agrarians", led by the former deputy S. Skerlev, accounts for 15 percent of the refugees. Two percent are Social-Democrats, and 10 percent belong to no political party. Not less than 15 percent are generally classified as "black marketeers and common criminals".

2. Most of these emigres are in desperate financial straits. Twenty to thirty percent are presently unemployed and an additional 10 to 15 percent receive some financial assistance from IRO. Others are employed at extremely low wages or work for their food.

3. One Regip Sipahi, a Turkish merchant resident in Istanbul, who works closely with the Turkish authorities, plays a dominant role among these Bulgarian emigres. Sipahi, who serves as president of the Bulgarian Refugee Committee, also heads the "Economic Committee" which was formed to aid these refugees. He has complete control of the funds of the "Economic Committee".

4. It appears that some Bulgarian emigres have received harsh treatment, amounting to torture, from the Turkish police. Others have been robbed of funds, jewelry, and money while in the hands of the authorities.

5. Sipahi, who is said to pose as a friend of Dr. G. M. Dimitrov, directs the so-called "pro-Turkish Agrarians".

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