

INTELLIGENCE

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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 20 Dec. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Purges in Communist Party in 1950
2. Organization of Communist Party
3. Communist Auxiliary Organizations

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- The Bulgarian Communist Party, as a member of the Cominform, is subordinate to the Soviet Communist Party and is under the direct supervision of the latter. The Communist Party is organized and ruled according to the principle of "democratic centralism," but in reality, an absolute dictatorship is exercised, and there is no opportunity to control the activity of the ruling bodies.
- In the first few years after 9 September 1944, the Communist Party had 400,000 members, but since the purges its members total only 300,000. Of these, only 20,000 are old Party members. Great numbers of new members have joined the Party for opportunistic reasons. As a party of the working class, the Communist Party should be composed mostly of workers, but actually only about 20 per cent of its members are workers. The increase in membership during 1950 was very small in spite of a campaign to recruit new members.
- The Bulgarian Communist Party is constantly conducting purges. In the purge of 1950, Nicolai Popov, the Secretary of the Party Organization of Radio Sofia, was excluded from the Party "because of his bourgeois origin," and today he cannot find a job. A former partisan, Zdravka Kolova, a radio Sofia employee, was arrested near the end of 1950 for "Traycho Kostovism." In November 1950 Dimitur Dimov, one of the Secretaries of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, was arrested. About January 1951, General Blagoi Penev, the Director of the People's Militia, was arrested. Anton Kirilov, the chief of the Investigation Section of State Security, and Nikola Mihailov Zagorski and Bachi Zeev, ex-chiefs of sections of State Security, were also arrested in 1950.
- To become a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party, a candidate must submit a request to the Secretary of the Party Organization at the institution where he works. The request must be signed by two guarantors, both of whom must be Party members. After the candidate's past has been carefully scrutinized, he is accepted or rejected by open voting at a general meeting of the Party organization. He remains an alternate member of the Communist Party for one year. During this period he receives theoretical instruction and is carefully watched. After the year of testing is over, he is accepted as a regular member of the Communist Party or he is rejected.

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5. The Bulgarian Communist Party is headed by a Central Committee consisting of about 30 members and alternates. The Central Committee has several secretaries and a Secretary-General. Attached to the Central Committee is a bureaucratic machine of about one thousand persons. This apparatus is a miniature of the entire governmental regime; there is a military affairs sector, foreign affairs sector, economic sector, et cetera. The offices of the apparatus are in Sofia on the premises of the former regency at the corner of Parizh and Moskovska Streets, opposite the church of St. Sophia.
6. The Politburo is composed of five or six members of the Central Committee, and it is the actual ruling body of the country.
7. The Party has district, country, and town organizations, and it also has organizations in factories, collectives, and other institutions. In Sofia there were also sector organizations. At the head of each Party organization, there is a Party Secretary with a "buro" and auxiliary personnel. By means of these so-called "string" organizations the Bulgarian Communist Party carries out its decisions. However, these organizations have been found to be insufficient, and the Bulgarian Communist Party has organized auxiliary organizations.
8. The foremost of the auxiliary organizations is the Fatherland Front Organization which has about 1,200,000 members. Its structure is similar to that of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and members are accepted easily. This organization carries out decisions of the Government in the localities, and indoctrinates the masses in Marxist teachings by means of conferences, meetings, and courses. The Fatherland Front also watches over the behavior of the citizens and disseminates propaganda for the Bulgarian Communist Party. At the end of 1950 a campaign was begun to recruit new members for the organization. Minimum qualifications were required to join.
9. The General Workers Professional Union is another auxiliary organization through which Party and non-Party members are directed by the regime. Theoretically this organization is supposed to protect the interests of the workers, but actually it acts to suppress them. Those who are not members of the union have great difficulty finding a job.
10. Another auxiliary organization, the Union of Fighters Against Fascism, includes participants in the resistance against all the governments since 1920, and those who took part in the war against the Germans. This is the closest organization to the Bulgarian Communist Party, and its purpose is to keep reserve cadres at the disposal of the Bulgarian Communist Party in case of war or civil disturbance.¹
11. The Bulgarian Red Cross and the Bulgarian-Soviet Associations are other auxiliary organizations which are entirely subordinate to the Bulgarian Communist Party.

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1. Comment: Several reports [redacted] have mentioned the recent merger of the Union of Fighters Against Fascism with the People's Union for Sport and Technics to form the Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation. (DOSO: Dobrovolnata Organizatsia Sudeystvie na Otbrana).

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