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Subject: Statement of Ivan DOCHEV concerning his Personal Background
as well as the Bulgarian National Front

PX 2910

Dr. Ivan Dochev, 45 years old, born in Shumen, Bulgaria, graduated from the Law School of the University of Sofia, and received his doctor's degree from the University at Heidelberg.

17 March 1953

Mrs. Dochev, university graduate, knows four languages and within the past two years has learned enough English to be employed as a typist by the offices of Kresjge and Co. in Toronto. She says that her husband is not a good linguist, that he knows broken German and has not been able to learn English because he is so busy with other matters.

Dr. Dochev worked in a factory for one year after his arrival in Canada. Then he bought a truck on credit (24% interest) and is now an independent trucker. In addition, he edits the "Bulgarian People's Voice" and is secretary-general of the Bulgarian National Front.

In Bulgaria.

As a university student Dr. Dochev was president of the National Students' Union. At the same time, in 1931 he organized the Bulgarian Legion, a youth organization, with the purpose of directing the activities and thoughts of the young generation away from Communism. The name Legion was used to commemorate the Legion of Rakovsky during the Turkish yoke. This was not a political organization but was 100% anti-Communist. As a result of its activities, within a period of five or six years, all Marxist and Leninist groups which the Communists had succeeded in establishing in the schools disappeared. The fight against Communism was carried on with ideas not force.

When the German influence in Bulgaria began to be felt, the first step was to try and influence the youth. The Legion refused to become a tool of the Germans. Because of that, it was abolished in 1934 when the Kimon Georgiev government came to power. In 1935, however, it was reestablished only to be outlawed again in 1937 because it was considered opposed to the policies of the government. Dr. Dochev was then tried by the government and sentenced to one year in prison which he spent in the prison of Sofia.

After the return of the Dobrudja to Bulgaria, Dr. Dochev was mobilized and sent to Silistra as mayor of the town. He held this position two years. In the meantime, in Sofia, General Lukov, in support of the government pro-German policy, formed a new youth organization under the old name - Legion. Dochev and the majority of the members of the old Legion stayed out of the new organization and never had anything to do with it.

However, when the government felt threatened by the Communists, they remembered Dochev's anti-Communist activities and appointed him Secretary of the Union of Bulgarian Farmers, in order to save the peasants from Communist influence. Due mainly to his activities as secretary of an organization with 1,400,000 members and 4,500 local secretaries, the Communists were not able to make any headway in the villages.

On September 9, 1944, he and his wife escaped by way of Macedonia

On March 9, 1945, he was tried in absentia by the People's Court and sentenced to death for anti-Communist activities as Secretary of the Union of Bulgarian War Veterans.

In Europe and Canada.

On arrival in Austria in 1945, he immediately began publishing a monthly anti-Communist sheet "Bulgaria" - long before Dr. G. M. Dimitroff began his activities abroad. He was also the first Bulgarian to publish an anti-Communist book, "A New Danger for World's Peace - Red Bulgaria".

In the winter of 1946/47, long before the formation of Dr. G.M. Dimitroff's Committee, he initiated the establishment of an anti-Communist immigrant organization under the name of "Bulgarian National Front". The Front has a three point program:

1. Fight for the liberation of Bulgaria and for the complete annihilation of World Communism.
2. Reinstate the Tirmovo Constitution as a basis of democratic government.
3. Win friends abroad for the liberation of Bulgaria and help all anti-Communists, willing to work towards that end.

According to the by-laws, everyone except Communists can belong to the Front provided they promise at the outset to forget their party and political differences. Members of all former political parties now belong to the Front. The Front has no connection with Alexander Tsankov neither is he a member of the organization.

The constituent congress took place in Heidelberg in the fall of 1947, and in December of the same year its Supreme Council was elected in Munich.

Supreme Council:

1. Bristo Stetay (former liberal, now in Italy)
2. Ivan Dochev (" secretary of U.B.F. , now in Canada)
3. Stefan Bonov (" member of Mlada Bulgaria, now in Switzerland)
4. Dimitar Vulchev (" liberal, now in Germany)

All the members have equal rights. However, Dr. Dimitar Vulchev, lawyer by profession, is the editor of the "Bulgarian National Front" published in Munich and Dr. Ivan Dochev is secretary of the organization. Actually the latter controls the works because he has charge of the seal of the organization; so that without his signature and seal, no document or document is official. The correspondence which is confidential and the business of the organization are conducted through him.

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Executive Council.

The executive council has twenty members. The presidents of the central organization in each country are members of the council. In countries where the membership is large, additional members may be appointed. The additional number needed to bring the total to twenty is appointed by decision at a conference.

The National Front now has about 2000 members throughout the world and so far there have been no disagreements or quarrels among them.

Executive Council Members :

Canada.

The most numerous group in one place is found in Toronto.
Members: (Engineer) Angel Gundersky and (Dr.) Angel Todorov.

U.S.A.

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Four groups - New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Chicago.
Members : (Dr.) Matai Dieikov - New York
(Dr.) George Paprikov - Jackson, Illinois
(Dr.) Kalin Koichay - New York

Brazil.

Members: (Engineer) Raiko Belopitov
(Dr.) Hristo Popov

Venezuela.

Member: (Dr.) Evstati Antonov

New Zealand.

Member : Atanas Georgiev

Australia.

Member: Ivan Danchev
There are three groups in Australia.

Germany.

Member : (Dr) Alexander Lubenov.

Austria.

Member: Valko Kovachev

France.

Member: Bogomil Marinov

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Italy.

Member : Milko Petrov

Most immigrants are in Trieste, therefore, the group is in Trieste.

Greece.

Member : Nikola Mutafchiev

Turkey.

Member: One member who has just gone to Germany. The new member has not yet been elected.

Before the formation of Dr. G.M.Dimitrov's Committee, Dr. Dochev wrote to him and asked for an interview, hoping that an understanding would be reached to combine their efforts. However, Dr. Dimitrov replied that his aim was to fight not only Communists but also Fascists. Since he considered Dochev a Fascist, an interview would be superfluous.

Dochev offered his services to the Americans in Austria, and worked for them both in Austria and Germany for over two years, in 1947 and 1948. During this period he was able to send several men back into Bulgaria for intelligence purposes. Also he carried on correspondence with people in Bulgaria by way of Bulgarians working on the Danube boats.

Dochev still has in his possession an identification card authorizing him to travel with locked brief cases or suitcases with U.S.A. markings, etc. I saw the card personally. It was issued by Headquarters European Command H.Q. Economic Survey Unit, A.P.O. 757, U.S. Army, Munich, June 23, 1948 in the name of Dr. Iwan Dotscheff (German spelling of his name which has also been used in his Canadian passport). While waiting for a U.S. visa, the British offered him one for Canada, and since someone had told him that probably the U.S. would not give him a visa because Dr. G.M.Dimitrov had turned in a report against him, he decided to accept the British offer.

Dr. Dochev is going to become a Canadian citizen but says that his heart is not here but in Bulgaria. When the right time comes, he wants to go back, at the head of a group of men about 500 strong, to enter the country illegally, deploy his men throughout the land and organize a general revolt in preparation for the coming of the outside world forces against Communism. He claims that he is much better known in Bulgaria both in the villages and towns than Dr. G.M.Dimitrov ever was and that he would be willing to bet that in case of a vote he would win the majority without any trouble. However, he would like to go back only when the time is ripe for a war against Russia which, he believes, is coming soon. Otherwise an uprising would only mean the annihilation of the Bulgarian nation.

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The Bulgarian National Front has no further aims than the liberation of Bulgaria. Once that is accomplished, the Front would dissolve.

Dr. Dochev thinks that either Dr. G.M. Dimitrov or someone in his employ has reported falsely to the U.S. authorities as follows:

1. That the Legion was a Fascist organization while Dochev was its head.
2. That the Legion carried out anti-Jewish activities while in fact it was the Ratnitsi which did that. The leader of the Ratnitsi, Prof. Kantarjiev, was admitted to the U.S.
3. That he had been in the service of the British while actually he was serving the Americans.
4. That he had supplied a faked photograph of Dochev in German uniform while actually Dochev has never had anything to do with the Germans.

Dochev is very anxious to be allowed to come to the United States occasionally to speed up the organization of the Bulgarians. He would promise to carry out to the letter any conditions which the U.S. authorities might deem fit to require.

My personal opinion (if it is in order to offer it) is that his dossier ought to be checked and that, if no other reasons exist against him, he should be allowed to come in on short visits since he could be extremely valuable, especially as he would be willing to follow instructions.

The Bulgarian People's Voice *Publication*

The paper is edited by a committee, but Dochev does most of the work free of charge. He has a mailing list of about 1000, but only 200 are paid subscriptions. Because of the lack of funds, it now appears only once a month.

Dochev offered to print the News Letter of the American Bulgarian League in his paper against payment of what it costs the League now, but his offer was turned down. He says that he needs 1000 paid subscriptions in order to break even and improve the paper. His paper could do an excellent job to counteract the Bulgarian Communist press. *pkh*

There is one Communist paper in Toronto, "Novo Vreme"; another in Detroit, "Novi Dni"; and a socialist paper in Granite City, "Rabotnicheska Prosveta". He would like to be able to reduce their influence. *pkh*

The editor of "Novo Vreme", Edmann Tavetkov, visited Bulgaria recently and is now engaged in a campaign to persuade people that Bulgaria is a paradise under the Reds.

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Bulgarian American League.

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Mrs. Clarke has been writing to Dochev and has made several suggestions. He says that he met her for the first time in Windsor last year. Since he knew very little about her, he asked his people in the U.S. to report on her. The majority advised him to have nothing to do with her since she was known as a Communist and a person of bad character. One wrote that she is an F.B.I. agent and reports everything she can find out to the F.B.I.

^{American Bulgarian}
The general opinion of his supporters seems to be that Kobourov and his gang have manoeuvred the League in such a way that at the next convention in New York, it will fall completely into their hands, if nothing is done to prevent it before then.

Bulgarian National Committee.

Dochev received a letter from Kobourov recently inviting him, at the suggestion of Matzankiev, to go to New York in May to attend a meeting of the Bulgarian National Committee for the election of officers. Matzankiev's plan seems to be to make use of Dochev and his supporters and to win the presidency from Dr. G.N. Dimitrov.

Conclusion.

I believe I have won Dr. Dochev's confidence fully. If more details are needed about any of the matters mentioned above, I shall have no trouble in getting them from him by mail.

End.

March 1, 1953