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DOCHEV, Ivan

15 April 1954

R.I. File 200-50-2291 is a letter written 13 January 1952 by Milyu MILEV, Bulgarian emigre, to Frederic R. DOBHEARE, Vice President of NCPC in New York. MILEV's letter is a report on the Bulgarian National Committee written, according to MILEV, in a most objective manner since he (MILEV) belongs to no Bulgarian political party.

Under the caption "Sounding Out and Interviewing Other Emigre Circles" MILEV in 1944 was approached by Ivan DOTCHEFF (DOCHEV) who was in Austria. Although not a personal acquaintance MILEV knew that in Bulgaria, DOTCHEFF was the promoter of what was called "The National Bulgarian Legions", an organization, mainly in intellectual circles, whose members were exclusively college graduates or students. Small in number, unknown to the man of the people, and a political nonentity, this organization was in political sympathy with the Hitler Youth movement. It had followers only in the capital and in a few centers of learning.

Due to administrative red tape, DOTCHEFF was unable to come to Switzerland in December 1948, by which time the National Committee was already formed. Mr. DOTCHEFF told Milyu MILEV: "Considering the necessity in succeeding in our struggle against the common enemy, we recognize that Bulgarian resistance abroad must have as its leader Dr. George M. DIMITROV who is in Washington and enjoys the confidence of the Americans. My friends and I are ready to join the newly formed committee, but on the following conditions: We are unable to join the committee individually; our organization has had its past and its present, and we wish to be admitted as such, as a bloc. You understand that I, as head of this organization with its groups in 23 German and Austrian towns, cannot join the committee as just anybody. I must have the position I deserve. Once the conditions are accepted, I assure you that I will bring the whole organization over to the committee."

Thus the entry of this "organization" into the committee depended solely on the good will of its chief. MILEV therefore informed DIMITROV and the Paris members about this matter. Their reaction was unanimously negative. MILEV said that personally he could not accept a man who pompously gave himself the title of "FUHRER", and who under the cloak of nationalism, was teaching youngsters totalitarianism. Mr. POPOFF told MILEV in Zurich that he categorically opposed collaboration with DOTCHEFF as an extreme right winger, vain and mediocre. This didn't stop POPOFF

15 Apr 54

(Stefan POPOV) from forming with DOTCHEFF "The Bulgarian National Front." DOTCHEFF never attained the Bulgarian National Committee but on numerous occasions wrote DIMITROFF on the Subject.

R.I. File 200-7-50-263Y (PL-2910) is biographic information on Ivan DOCHEV, Leader of the Bulgarian National Front, acquired in Munich January 1953 from a usually reliable source from letters written by DOCHEV to close personal friends and associates. The letters were shown to source.

Dr. Ivan DOCHEV is described as 45 years of age, born in Simmen, Bulgaria, graduated from the Law School of the University of Sofia and received his doctor's degree from the University at Heidelberg. DOCHEV is now living in Toronto, Canada where he devotes most of his time to the affairs of the Bulgarian National Front, an anti-Communist organization which he founded in Austria, in 1946. Dr. DOCHEV holds the position of Secretary-General and directs and controls all its activities. In addition, he edits the Bulgarian and English language newspaper,  Narodna Glas (People's Voice) and supports himself by working as a trucker. Mrs. DOCHEV is employed as a typist by Kresge and Company in Toronto.

DOCHEV maintains that he was never connected with the pro-German Legion established by General LUKOV in 1940, but that he was the founder (1931) of another organization called the Bulgarian Legion, which, because of its refusal to become tool of German policy, was outlawed by the Kimon Georgiev government in 1934.

The same R.I. Document contains information on the Bulgarian National Front which was founded in Austria in 1946 by Dr. Ivan DOCHEV. It is a three point program called for the liberation of Bulgaria from the Communist yoke, the restoration of the Rurnovo Constitution, and to obtain these first two goals by activities abroad which would enlist people on the side of the liberation of Bulgaria.

Before the formation of Dr. George M. DIMITROV's Committee, Dr. DOCHEV wrote DIMITROV so their efforts might be combined, however, DIMITROV replied that his aim was to fight not only Communists but also Fascists. Since DIMITROV considered DOCHEV a Fascist an agreement was not reached.

Dr. DOCHEV thinks that either DIMITROV or someone in his employ had reported falsely to the U.S. authorities that the Bulgarian Legion was a Fascist organization while DOCHEV was its head; that the Legion was anti-Jewish; that he had been in the service of the British while actually serving the Americans; that he had supplied a faked photograph of DOCHEV in German uniform while actually DOCHEV had never had anything to do with the Germans.

R.I. File 201-9905, pertaining to Subject, makes numerous mention of his having been born on 7 January 1906.

In a biographic report dated 21 April 1952, Subject, the author of A New Danger for World's Peace - Bulgaria, is described in his own book as one of the best known young Bulgarian politicians with a reputation of being a staunch enemy of Communism. Sentenced to death by the Communist government which was established in Bulgaria after September 1944, he was successful in saving his life by contriving to emigrate before falling into the hands of the red militia. Residing abroad since 1944, he has continued his fight against Communism as an active member in the anti-Communist front of the Bulgarian national emigrants.

The CIA library files reflect that in his book Subject describes the growth of Communism in Bulgaria during the past 30 years. He believes that Bulgaria, because of the strong anti-Communist tendencies among its people and because of its strategic position on the globe could and should be separated from the Soviet sphere of influence. The U.S. should take the lead in bringing about this separation, thus breaking Russia's hold on the Balkans. This according to DOCHEV, might prevent a third World War.

A State Department memo dated 21 November 1951 states that Subject's paper, Horoden Glas, printed in Toronto criticized, probably due to Subject's ultra-nationalism, the inclusion of Greece and Turkey within the Atlantic Pact framework. It is further stated that DOCHEV's former organization, the Legion was a Nazi organization which presumably comes under the terms of the McCarran Act. It is believed that DOCHEV was recently refused avisa to visit the U.S. In Germany, he was reported to be a disrupting element among Bulgarian emigres.

Another source, a USFA Special Biweekly Report #84 dated 4 February 1949 states that when DOCHEV founded the Bulgarian resistance organization "Anti-Bolshevistic Union", he did so primarily to further his ultimate aim of uniting all Bulgaria refugees in Western Europe into an anti-Communist bloc under his leadership. Although DOCHEV, in contact with American intelligence agencies following the end of hostilities in 1945, alleged to be primarily motivated by strong nationalistic feelings, it was the opinion of one source that he felt slighted at being ignored as an unofficial representative of a considerable portion of exiled Bulgarians and by Dr. Georgi DIMITROV, leader of the "Bulgarian Liberation Movement". DOCHEV was allegedly considered acceptable to DIMITROV as a member of the European Chapter of the Bulgarian Liberation Movement in Emigration but not as a representative of a Bulgarian faction labelled by DIMITROV as "Fascist".

A dispatch from Chief, FIM to Chief of Station, Karlsruhe dated

12 June 1950 is an answer to a request for information on Subject. An autostated copy is attached.

**AGENT'S NOTE:**

Several variations of Subject's name (DOTSHEV, DOTSHEFF, DOTCHEFF) and the AKA: DIMITROFF, Ivan were noted during review of a large number of documents pertaining to Subject. Because of the history of Subject's activities obtained, these variations and AKA were not requested for an indices search by R.I. Reg's try, however, upon request, this will be accomplished.

No additional pertinent data.

Special Agent  
Special Referral Branch