Personal History Statement Written 19 July 1954 by Ivan DOCHEV - Translation

Born: 7 January 1906

Place: Shumen, Bulgaria

Relatives:

Father Dimitur DOCHEV, Colonel in the Bulgarian Army, died as the result of the persecution and terror of the Communists, soon after 9 Sept 44.

Mother Stela DOCHEVA, nee SAULEVA. I presume that she is still alive in Bulgaria. I do not maintain any contact with her.

Brothers Dochko DOCHEV, Major in the Bulgarian Army, killed by the Communist after 9 September 1944.

Dr. Borislav DOCHEV, physician, spent several years after 9 Sept in a Concentration Camp. At present he performs his duties as a physician in the villages. I do not maintain amy contact with him.

I resided in Shumen until I completed Gimnaziya and for six years thereafter - which was 1930.

I completed Gimnasaya in 1925 in Shumen. Following this I was a clerk for six years in the Obshtina Administration - the last three years as Secretary of the Obshtina Administration. During this time I took an active part in educational, patriotic and athletic arganizations in my native town of Shumen and always held an administrative position, sometimes Holding the office of Chairman.

During 1930 I went to Sofia to continue my education and enrolled as a student of the Law faculty of the University there.

During this period the Communists were very active. I initiated the foundation of the Bulgarian National Legion - a patiotic, non-political organization 100% anti-Communist. Up until this time I had not belonged to any political party. The National Legion, of which I had been chosen leader, performed great deeds - especially among the Youth. This organization cut /defeated/ the Communists and prevented them from influencing the Youth. Inasmuch as the party spirit in the country had been disintegrated, the National Legion later proclaimed a political program - for revival. The organization was completely independent of foreign countries. Towards the end there were 100000 members throughout the entire country. At the time of the establishment of the regime on 19 May 1934, when political parties were dissolved, the organization of the National Legion was also dissolved. I was the first and only person to come cut in open war against the regime of 1934 by distributing statements with my signature on them. During this year I was chosen Chairman of the Bulgarian Students League. Due to my oppositionist actions I was interned by the 9th Right Wing-May power in Dere Dere (Zlatograd) where I remained until the fall of the government in Feb 35.

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In the latter half of the year 1935 the National Legion received permission to exist again legally and it became active again. Toward the end of 1936 the existence of the organisation was again forbidden. In my capacity as leader I gave orders for the continuation of the organization illegally. Because of these orders of mine and because of my activities which were not in agreement with the Bulgarian government then in existence, I received a one year jail sentence and sent to jail.

I was released from jail in June 1937 when the Amnesty was issued on the occasion of the birth of the present boy King SIMEON II.

During the fall of 1937 I took my University examinations. I completed the Law faculty at the University of Sofia and received a Diploma in Juridicial University education. 1938-1939 I took steps to be permitted to practice Law, which I completed in the beginning of 1940. At the same time I continued to develop—unofficially, the organization of the National League.

After the annexation of Dobrudzha to Bulgaria - during the war - I became Mayor of the city of Silistra, my mothers birthplace. I remained there for two years (1941-42), after which I became Chief Secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian League - the largest organisation in Bulgaria, with almost 1,000,000 methers. I held this position until 9 September 1944. In the capacity of Chief Secretary of this organization I increased the scope of activity of the organization - especially in the villages throughout all of Bulgaria - against Communism, against which I had been sentenced by the illegal Communist Party even prior to September 9, 1944.

With the invasion of Bulgaria by the Bolshevik Army and the establishment of a Communist regime, my life was in danger. In spite of this and in spite of the fact that I could not tolerate a Red Oppressor regime, I emigrated from Bulgaria to Germany - Vienna. At that time that was the only way a person could emigrate from Bulgaria. During my absence, in the year 1945, the Communist People's Court sentenced me to death. In Vienna I immediately contacted the Bulgarian Anti-Communist emigrees and took the most active part in the war which existed against the Communist regime in Bulgaria. At no time, however, just as previously in Bulgaria and then in Germany, did I accept service nor did I accept support from anyone, even a foreign service.

Before the Bolshevik Army entered Vienna - 1945 and before the Reds could take the city I left for Salsburg where the American Occupation forces had already been established. I lived in Austria until 1951, then I went to Toronto, Canada.

In 1946 I was the first Bulgarian emigre who, on his own and by his own means began to write and distribute pamphlets among Bulgarian emigrees in all countries opposing Communism.

During 1948 I took the initiative in organizing the Bulgarian National Front, the strongest organization, at present, among our emigrees which opposes Bolshevism. From the very beginning and up to the present time I have been active in this organization - I have been a member of a three-member Executive Committee.

In Europe in 1948 I published a small book against the Bolshevik regime in Bulgaria entitled "Bulgaria under the Red Terror" - written in German. During 1950 I wrote a second book, in English, called "A Danger for World Peace - Red Bulgaria".

During 1948 and up until the end of 1950 I was employed in the service of the Information Service of the American Occupation Forces Command.

During the fall of 1948 I completed my dissertation for my Doctorate in Constitutional Law in Heidelberg University in Germany, where, in the same year I took language examinations and received my Doctorate.

I arrived in Canada in May 1951.

I worked there independently and until the present time. I have my own business transportation of construction materials. I continue to direct the organisational activities of the Bulgarian National Front from Toronto. In Toronto I megan to write and publish the newspaper "Bulgarian Naroden Gas" which is the only paper in America and Canada, at present, which is published in the Bulgarian language.

In 1935 I married Maria DOCHEV nee SELVELIEVA who was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1909, the marriage took place in Sofia. She emigrated from Bulgaria with me in 1944 and is presently in Toronto. My wife has a University education in Classical Philology. She studied in Milan, Italy, for some time and graduated from Sofia University. She speaks English, French, German, Italian and a little of some Slavic languages, particularly Russian. She has been my active assistant throughout our entire marriage of 20 years, in my political work. In Bulgaria she had been a leader of the Women's organisation of the Bulgarian National Legion - before she became my wife. At present she assists me in the publication and writing of the newspaper in Toronto.

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/S/ I.D.Dochev

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