

10 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Meeting with Dr. Ivan DOCHEV

1. On Thursday, 3 January 1957, the following officers met operationally with Subject for approximately five hours in a room at the Commodore Hotel, New York City. No true names were used in registering or meeting:

2. The following points were covered in the meeting:

- a. At the recent congress (convention) of the "Bulgarian National Front" in Toronto, Khristo STATEFF of Rome, Italy was chosen to continue as President of the BNF. Ivan DOCHEV was confirmed as General Secretary and in charge of "Organisational and Revolutionary Activities."
- b. Early in the meeting DOCHEV made a suggestion that emigres of his choosing ought to be placed on the staff of RFE and VOA in order to increase the effectiveness of broadcasts to Bulgaria. Specifically he suggested his man in Munich, VULCHEV, replace the deceased Alexander DIMITROV as head of VOA, Munich. It was diplomatically suggested to DOCHEV that emigres with alleged influence over broadcasts from Radio Madrid should first improve the mediocre output from that station by way of demonstrating what they could do in the propaganda business.
- c. DOCHEV inquired whether some financial support could be found for his Bulgarian language news sheet published in Toronto. He was advised that we could give no direct support to such an organ.
- d. Concerning a general proposition broached by us in a previous meeting, DOCHEV stated he feels now that he can undertake such travel as necessary to do spotting and current assessment on UW assets in Europe and elsewhere. So long as his absence

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might be for a month or more rather than a series of short trips, he feels he can practicably locate and place under contract a responsible person to run his Toronto business while DOCHEV is gone. This is particularly true for winter months. While specific financing was not arrived at, the following general points were settled on. The replacement to run DOCHEV's business could be expected to at least realize enough profit to discharge DOCHEV's contract obligations to him. With our paying DOCHEV's travel expenses and per diem, the remaining problems of his wife's support and payments on his home should fall substantially within the suggested subsidy of \$400 monthly, which we mentioned again at this meeting.

- e. DOCHEV advised that he had at the ENF convention broached the subject of his making visits to scattered chapters of the ENF for the purpose of consolidating and strengthening the organization. He reported that the proposal was approved and a small fund started for the purpose of financing same. He felt that this move on his part and the existence of a fund would serve to cover a trip made on our behalf.
- f. We told DOCHEV the names of the two Bug W/T prospects we have contacted and some others we have in mind. He said he is well acquainted with them all, approves of them for the intended purpose, and promised to contact them and add his endorsement to their working with us.
- g. One slightly new angle introduced by DOCHEV was his proposal to visit chapters of the ENF in the Eastern U.S. and Eastern Canada before going to Europe. Reasons given were:
  - (1) A strong, closely knit ENF organization will strengthen the ENF's voice concerning an expected formation of a formal Bulgarian government in exile in Spain and strengthen the ENF's hand in all Bulgarian emigre affairs. This should redound to our benefit if we are using the ENF.
  - (2) A stronger ENF would have greater influence and attraction for assets which DOCHEV might spot and contact.

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- (3) DOCHEV is not sure but what the better and greater number of Bug UW assets may have emigrated away from Europe. Wherever they may be, we want to at least locate and list the willing and qualified ones, a thing which he could and would accomplish on this side before going to Europe.

3. Without having had details spelled out at great length, DOCHEV seems to have fallen mentally in step with what we want to accomplish. He had a good idea of the kind of UW assets we are looking for and a realistic grasp of the numerous steps we must go through and cautions we must observe. He has his objectives and we have ours, and they appear compatible.

4. DOCHEV's next move will be to locate a temporary manager who will contract to handle his business. He will notify us by mail when he has done so, giving us at least a week's notice as to when we can have another New York meeting. At this meeting we will go over final instructions prior to his North American trip, give him questionnaires to be filled out on potential assets he spots, work out financial details with him, and provide him funds for his trip.

5. The day following the meeting DOCHEV reported back that he had visited with the two Bug W/T prospects we have contacted and had added his blessing for their working freely with us.

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