

ITEM NO. 3858/56

PRIORITY

EH

April 13

VII/2032

BULGARIA
(NEW DEVELOPMENTS)

<u>COMMUNIST PARTY</u>	(0600)
Ideology and Cadres	(0603)
Inner Life	(0604)
Criticism	(0605)
Personalities	(0606)

COMMUNIST DARK HORSE RUMORED AS CHERVENKOV'S SUCCESSOR
AS PREMIER.

SOURCE TRIESTE: Reliable source.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: April 5 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The official communiqué of the CC of the BCP mentioned only that a cult of the person had been built around Valko CHERVENKOV, however, without stating, who is to be held responsible for the creation of this cult; i.e. no attacks against Valko CHERVENKOV were made in this communiqué. According to information compiled from various dispatches of different telegraph agencies, some members of the CC of the BCP directed sharp attacks against CHERVENKOV at the Plenary session of the CC of the BCP, which took place from April 2 to 6, 1956.

Prof. Ivan STEFANOV and Prof. Petko KUNIN have really been released from prison. However, no information is available here that they have been reinstated in their BCP membership, let alone that they have been elected members of the CC of the BCP.

It can be considered with some certainty that CHERVENKOV is not suitable as Premier for the new form of Soviet home and foreign policy. His fate eventually will be decided at the forthcoming 5th extraordinary session of the National Assembly, convoked for April 16 1956. The Yugoslav parliamentary delegation headed by Moshe PIJADE will also take part in this meeting. This gesture could be evaluated as an expression of TITO's satisfaction with CHERVENKOV's current difficulties. CHERVENKOV was one the main leaders of the "hate Yugoslavia" campaign, after this country's expulsion from the Cominform.

(over)

As the most suitable successors for CHERVENKOV, the following persons have been mentioned: Anton YUGOV, Gen. Ivan MIHAILOV and Georgi CHANKOV.

+ + +

Former Minister of Finance Ivan STEFANOV, and the former Minister of Trade Petko KUNIN, both of whom were involved in the trial against Traicho KOSTOV, were present at the meeting of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party held in SOFIA on April 3 1956, at which Premier Valko CHERVENKOV was violently criticized. Both the ex-Ministers had been released from prison in 1955.

Rumors keep circulating in SOFIA that CHERVENKOV will soon be removed from office and that his place will be taken by a minor Communist official who is not one of the present members of the Central Committee or the Presidium.

End