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BULGARIA

AGRICULTURE /0200/
Collectivization /0202/

TKZS IN PETRICH

SOURCE ATHENS: An 18-year-old Bulgarian blacksmith.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until October 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The collective farm in PETRICH is covered in our files as is Dincho HARIZANOV. However, the latter is known here only as a member of the BCP in the same town, and not as chairman of the collective farm until 1954 and later as a member of the town council. The rest of the details given are unknown here.

According to the Codex of Labor pregnant women are granted 90 days of leave for child-birth, beginning 30 days before the date of delivery. No information is available here that women are paid half-wages during five months of pregnancy.

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Source said that half the inhabitants of PETRICH belonged to the TKZS. He estimated that approximately 10,000 decares were under cultivation, of which 1,000 decars were for assorted market garden vegetables; 1,000 for fruit, mainly peaches; and the remaining 8,000 decares produced two crops of peas followed by one crop of tobacco.

He said that sometime in 1954 the owners of "many" decares located some five kilometers from PETRICH in an area known as "Karacheli," had been ordered to plant peaches on their land instead of their present crops of beans. In 1957, said source, when the peach trees start bearing fruit, the farmers will be forced to join the TKZS. He said that people in PETRICH all talked openly about the eventual elimination of the tobacco crop in favor of peaches which yielded more profit, because PETRICH peaches were the best in Bulgaria and noted all over the world.

Source stated that the PETRICH TKZS sold the peaches either to State stores or directly, through agents, to the SOFIA markets. Peaches were sold to the State by the TKZS:

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"Elbert" peaches for two leva a kilo; "Hale" and "Momini Gardi" peaches for one leva a kilo. The State stores then doubled the price.

Source said that the chairman of the TKZS until 1954 was Dintcho HARIZANOV, who then became a member of the town council. His replacement was not known to source.

Children of women working at the TKZS are left in nurseries at a cost of twenty leva a month. Children up to the age of three are taken to the "Detski Dom" nursery located between PETRICH proper and the suburb of Kvartal Seron. The building erected in 1954 some 500 meters distant from PETRICH, is three-storied and about twenty meters long by ten wide. It accomodates some 50 to 70 children who are looked after by five women, employees of the TKZS.

Children between three and six years of age are sent to the "Maichinski Dom" in the center of PETRICH near the church. This two-storied old building was formerly a school. Some 150 children are cared for there and the personnel are trained in a two-year course at a special school in SOFIA. They are paid 550 leva monthly and eat their lunch with the children, but have to provide their own dinners. Only children of government employees or Party members are accepted.

In the "Maichinski Dom" nursery source knew two of the supervisors, Gussa KALIBATSEVA and Elena VOLTSEVA. During the months of December, January and February, when work at the TKZS stops owing to bad weather, the nurseries close. Source said that women, members of the TKZS, were paid half wages for five months during pregnancy.

Source stated that in the village of MEDOVO, seven kilometers from PETRICH, all inhabitants belonged to the local TKZS and produced apples and tomatoes.

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CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: Source was held incommunicado for nine months and was only interviewable briefly once in SALONIKA in March and again in ATHENS in transit to SYROS. The authorities disclosed source's redefection in September.

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