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5 Aug
VII/868

BULGARIA

TRADE (3300)
Foreign (3305)

FOREIGN RELATIONS (1500)
Diplomatic Representation (1502)

Short Items.

SOURCE TRIESTE : Bulgarian in exile in contact with high Bulgarian political and commercial circles.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT : BRINK, the former Dutch chargé d'affaires in SOFIA, and his departure from Bulgaria are confirmed.

However, no information is available here on the execution of Filip MARINOV by police authorities.

The stay of a Bulgarian commercial delegation in Italy was previously reported (see Item No. 6978/53.) However, this office does not possess any information whatsoever on the outcome of the negotiations. It may be very possible that another delegation will come to Italy, since lately there has been a marked tendency toward cooperating with the West, according to the opinion of commercial middle-men of the Bulgarian Government (see Item No. 7669/53.)

This office does not possess any information on the present activities of "paidos", as reported in this report.

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(Over)

1. Insistent rumors claim that a certain Filip MARINOV, a former employee of the Dutch Legation and a friend of BRINK the former Dutch Charge d'Affaires in SOFIA, was shot to death by the police authorities in SOFIA.

2. The Bulgarian commercial delegation left MILAN for SOFIA on July 7th without having reached any conclusions. Although the members of this delegation seemed to be most optimistic with regard to the results of the negotiations there have, practically speaking, not been any true results so far. According to the "paidos" this is mainly due to the fact that there is not yet a Minister of Foreign Trade in Italy. But at any rate - so the "paidos" affirms - the same delegation or another one will return to Italy in a short time in order to conclude the negotiations. Meanwhile the "paidos" is very busy contacting Bulgarian businessmen living in Italy as well as Italian businessmen or industrialists who formerly resided in Bulgaria and who might be interested in dealing with Bulgaria. The names so far mentioned in this connection are PECHENIKOV, Vladimir MANDRADZHIEV, MEREGHETTI, BERTOLOTTI, GUIDETTI, BONECCHI, GUARDINI, and FACINCANI. He is also interested in making the personal acquaintance of a representative of the PIRELLI firm.

The rumors circulating in MILAN and claiming that a woman (NU) belonging to the above mentioned delegation "chose liberty", are to be considered unfounded and false.

It appears from conversations between the "paidos" and Milanese businessmen and industrialists that the former's capacity in commercial matters is "indeed primitive."

End.