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BULGARIASTANDARD OF LIVING

Food  
Prices

TRADE

Black Market  
Distribution

CORRUPTION

Bribery

Black Market Milk And Yoghurt Distribution At  
TOLBUHIN Possible Through Bribery

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Interview with a 55-year-old dairyman from TOLBUHIN.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1951.

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TOLBUHIN, with its 40,000 population, has five districts where stores selling yoghurt exist. Owned by the dairy products cooperative, these are in the "Gochere," "Panayir," "Kara Bokluk," "Kiremitchi" and "Saray" quarters of the city. Each of the yoghurt stores has a daily supply of 200 to 300 kilos meeting only 10 per cent of the people's demand. The price of yoghurt is 60 old Leva per kilo, although the State buys milk from the peasants at only 18 old Leva per kilo.

According to the government-imposed "nared" each cow must give three kilos of milk, and each sheep half a kilo. This quantity must daily be given to the State-owned dairy cooperative. But the peasants have found an easy way of dealing with the situation: they declare (say) half the number of cows or sheep they own, and pay the milk "nared" only of this 50 per cent, the other half is sold on the black market at 100 old Leva per kilo. This "half-declaration" system is, of course, only possible with the cooperation of the dairy cooperative officials who receive fat bribes in return.

An example is supplied by our source who, while in TOLBUHIN, owned 40 sheep, two cows and one goat, but declared to the cooperative that he owned only 20 sheep and one cow. This "half declaration" was made possible by bribing three clerks of the dairy cooperative whose names were (LNU) Mito, 55, of medium height, dark with a small mustache; KAPLANOV Stancho, 45, of medium height and dark, and (LNU) Ivan. Every week or ten days these three clerks would receive their bribes and in return would cooperate with the milk producers, helping them to sell their "surplus" on the black market. One day, our source was late in bribing Mito. The latter waited outside our source's house and caught him while selling milk to a peasant

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(cont'd)

at a black market rate. He took him to milk inspector Doctor CHAKALOV (fnu), 55, tall, white-skinned and blue-eyed, asking the doctor to report him to the cooperative for his black market activities. The doctor was a good friend of our source and told Mito to overlook the incident as our source was selling the milk to a sick peasant. Our source then took Mito to the local inn where he entertained him royally and bribed him with a few hundred Leva. Mito insisted to be entertained once a week and was very cooperative after that treatment....

EVAL. COMMENT: None.

*Evaluate Facts*

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