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4 January 1951
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Personalities
Methods of InvestigationCOMMUNIST PARTY

Abuse of Power

PERSECUTION & PURGES

Arrests

Life Of An Anti-Communist Between 1945 and 1951SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian escapee, arrived in Turkey on 5 October 1951.DATE OF OBSERVATION: From April 1945 to September 1951

"The long series of my imprisonments and tortures started in April 1945, when I was arrested by GORGIEV Bonu and KOSTADINOV Tongo of the NEYCHEVO security organization together with 15 friends. Our arrest was rather spectacular as we resisted the security men until they summoned help from military guards stationed at the railroad junction. The soldiers, who did not seize immediately the situation arrested the 16 of us together with GORGIEV and KOSTADINOV, and it took quite a while for the two security agents to prove their identity. We were taken to KARNOBAT and put in jail on charge of sabotage against the O.F. (Otechestven Front, Patriotic Front.) As there was no proof of our "criminal activities" we were released within 48 hours. Two weeks later, I was again arrested, this time charged with organizing the resistance group of the Agrarian Party in NEYCHEVO. As a matter of fact I did have some contact with former A.P. members but armed resistance at the time seemed impossible, DIMITROV Hristo and FILKOV. Mitu, the president and secretary of the village Soviet, are directly responsible for my arrest. I was again taken to KARNOBAT and threatened with death in case I ever mentioned the A.P. again. I was released after one month. During the elections in 1946, I was once more taken to KARNOBAT, where four of my teeth were knocked out at the security prison by TSONEV Ivan and GORGIEV Chanu, the master inquisitors of the prison. I suppose that the reason for this "treatment" was that in 1946 the opposition parties defeated the Communists in NEYCHEVO, and I was considered a firm opposition member. I was released within 10 days after my arrest, but my name appeared on the list of "people's enemies."

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(cont'd 1)

I was left in peace until June 1947, when DOSHEV Dosü, the chief of the KARNOBAT militia, arrested me on charge of sabotage for damaging the "No. 1 Stalinets tractor" of the D.Z.S. in NEYCHOVO. The usual beatings and threats were repeated and after 14 days I was set free again. During the period when PETKOV Nikola was under trial, most of the former Agrarian Party members in the KARNOBAT district were jailed, presumably to avoid any public upheaval. I was arrested together with 16 members of the dissolved Agrarian Party district council and placed in solitary confinement due to my "noted reactionary behavior." The 15 days I spent in prison during PETKOV's trial, was the hardest ordeal I had ever undergone. I was left without food for three days on end, and then beaten with a rubber hose until I could stand no more and fainted. When TSONEV, my tormentor, took me back to my cell, he washed my wounds with salt water in order to increase my pains. After my release I learned that during my stay in prison, security agents had looted my home and, exasperated at not finding anything incriminating, took my toolbox, my only remaining suit, and destroyed the photographs of my parents. DOSHEV returned to my cell and asked for my gun, which I had supposedly hid in my yard. I tried in vain to explain that I never possessed a gun, but DOSHEV gave no heed to my words and kept on beating me until I passed out. They realized that torturing me further was of no avail, so I was released on 2 December 1947.

On 25 May 1948, I was once more arrested, this time by PANOV Gospodin, a member of the KARNOBAT security, on charge that I was selling firearms to the guerillas. At the security prison I was confronted with a certain SLAVOV Todor, whom I scarcely knew. Todor affirmed that he had come to my home on four various occasions, buying guns and ammunition from me, which I had received from "imperialist agents," and which were destined for the guerillas, the "butchers of innocent children and women." I denied the accusations, but it was useless as SLAVOV was a well-trained provocateur of the D.S. (Darjavna Sigurnost, State Security.) As a matter of fact I had met SLAVOV on one occasion and had done a small transaction with him concerning some surplus rye I wanted to sell. SLAVOV insisted that I had sold him the guns, and even went further accusing MUTAPOV Penü and STOYANOV Yanko, both of whom were unknown to me, by saying that on my recommendation these two, both from DEVETINTSI village, district KARNOBAT, had sold him some automatic pistols and the necessary ammunition. I had to resign to this smearing campaign, the more so, as MUTAPOV and STOYANOV, both tortured beyond endurance, "confessed" that it was I who had sent SLAVOV to them. I had by then realized that I was a doomed man, for anyone implicated in trading with firearms was subject to a death sentence. However, things turned out differently. GORGIEV and TSONEV, my chief torturers

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(cont'd 2)

was in their hands, but they were willing to trade my life for the sum of one million Leva. I explained to them that I could not possibly procure that sum, and started bargaining. We settled for the sum of 600,000 Leva, and on 12 June, I was released for 48 hours in order to find the money; in case of a negative result I was to be executed within a few days. I collected the money from some relatives and friends and paid off the two blackmailers. Strange as it may sound they kept their promise and I was released after 24 hours. This was the last time I was in prison, and I was lucky enough to escape to Turkey two years later."

EVAL. COMMENT: Story and persons' names are unconfirmed; may be true,