

BULGARIA

MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD

Changed Bulgarian Attitude
Toward Russians

SOURCE ATHENS: a Bulgarian refugee from YAMBOL, who escaped to Greece in February 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current.

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Before the war the Russians were traditionally popular with the Bulgarian people, who regarded them as their saviors and liberators from Turkish domination. The first wave of detestation swept the country when the Soviets entered Bulgaria in pursuit of the retreating Germans. Not knowing whether the Bulgarians were supposed to be their friends and allies or their enemies, the Soviet troops wallowed in orgies of cruelty and immorality, which struck horror into the population. The establishment and rule of the MOSCOW-sponsored Communist regime has further increased the people's hatred of the once-popular Russian "protectors", whom they regard as plunderers of the product of their sweat. The Bulgarians now hate their Soviet overlords not only as Communists but as Russians, and the principal element of their hatred is fear.

EVAL. COMMENT: correct.