

ITEM No 155

G
4 January 1952
V-562

BULGARIA

AGRICULTURE
Collectivization

PERSECUTIONS & PURGES
Arrests

COMMUNIST PARTY
Personalities

PRISONS & CAMPS
Inmates

Formation Of PESHTERSKO Kolkhoz Near AITOS

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian escapee, arrived in Turkey on 23 October 1951.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: October 1951

The village of PESHTERSKO had no kolkhoz until February 1948, but then the Communist administrators decided to set up a kolkhoz and a reign of terror fell upon the village.

The first victim of the drive for a kolkhoz was KOSTOV Kosta Stoyanov, who was proclaimed a "people's enemy" for refusing to collectivize his 20 decarees of land. Within the month he was deported to TUTRAKAN, and spent seven months in a concentration camp. After his release KOSTOV returned to his village and tried to live in peace. However, CHIKOV Kosta Vasilev, the Communist first fiddle in PESHTERSKO, soon started to pester KOSTOV. The latter was forced to deliver additional "nared", he was refused to water his animals at the public village fountain, and his son was expelled from school. Despite this pressure, KOSTOV refused to sign the admission application for kolkhoz membership, so he was again deported and his whereabouts are unknown.

TOPALOV Ivan Stakov, who also refused to cooperate in the kolkhoz, had his two cows confiscated. When he went to CHIKOV to protest against this act, he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp where he stayed for more than a year.

KALOYANOV Kaloyan Stoyanov, NEDEV Valsko Avramov, HLEBAROV Petko Nikolov and KOSTOV Kosta Apostolov were also victims of CHIKOV's terrorization. KALOYANOV and NEDEV were both arrested and sent to concentration camps. KOSTOV decided to join the kolkhoz, but that did not help him very much, as he was arrested

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within one month after joining. HLEBAROV was forced to enlist as a trudovak.

The first kolkhoz president was CHIKOV Kosta Vasilev, who besides chief of the village Soviet and secretary of the Communist Party, gladly accepted the additional 'trouble' of the kolkhoz in order to be of more help to his country.

EVAL. COMMENT: Generally accurate, persons' names are not confirmed