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BULGARIA

PERSECUTION AND PURGES

Moral, Political and Economic Pressure

COMMUNIST PARTY

Inner Life

YUGOV'S RELATIVES REPORTED ARRESTED ON SECURITY GROUNDS

SOURCE: ATHENS, radio operator of a Greek vessel which touched at STALIN (VARNA) in January 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: January 1952

Some relatives of the Minister of Heavy Industry YUGOV Anton are reported to have been among 350 persons who were sent to the DIMITROVO (PERNIK) concentration camp in January "for security reasons." YUGOV is said to have protested bitterly to Prime Minister CHERVENKOV that the arrest of his relatives on such a damaging charge was due solely to personal hostility existing between YUGOV and the Minister of the Interior CHANKOV Georgi. It is believed that YUGOV's protest was ineffective, since it is hardly likely that CHANKOV would have ordered the arrest of his Cabinet colleague's relatives without first having obtained approval of the Soviet higher-ups who take the real decisions on security matters in SOFIA. In fact, informed circles believe that the arrest of YUGOV's relatives might mean the beginning of the end for YUGOV, who has long been on shaky ground.

EVAL. COMMENT: The cited case is UNCONFIRMED, but the reasoning is logical and possible.