

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
Audience Analysis
Translation Pool

PRIORITY
BS
May 13
XI - 1491

BULGARIA

PROPAGANDA /2600/
Radio /2605/

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS.

SOURCE ATHENS: A Bulgarian farmer.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until March 12 1955.

EVAL. COMMENT: None.

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Source stated that there were 200 radios in his village of AK-ALAN. They were in the 170 Bulgarian-occupied houses and the ten Greek-occupied houses. This, he said, was a higher proportion than usually found in the country villages. He did not know how many tube-radios, wired-radios or TV sets existed in his country, but he did know that there were two wired loudspeakers in the village, the one in the reading-room and the other in the main square. He added that when an important propaganda speech was announced, the community Communist "town-crier" would go out beating a drum and calling the villagers to gather and listen in the public square. This reading-room was open from eight o'clock in the morning until nine at every day except during the luncheon hour from 12 to two.

Source stated that most of the radios in the village were Czechoslovak "Tesla" and were owned by Communists who had bought them since the village acquired electric lighting three years back.

Stating that he had never noticed much interest on the part

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of the village's population during the public broadcasting of propaganda speeches or news, he added that the villagers glanced at one another, but did not dare comment when the subject was the increase of agricultural production and of its success. Adding that he had not listened to other radios than his own village broadcasts, he said he was not in a position to give any information about general reception, but demonstrated complete sincerity and willingness to cooperate.

Source said that while news was printed in the newspapers and he could get Bulgarian and Russian books in the reading-room, he read neither newspapers nor the books, because they consisted of nothing but lies about Communist achievements and progress in the production of things and were entirely without real news. He did not believe them and even the Communists did not believe them.

As source did not own a radio himself, he was not in a position to answer any questions about the technique and manner in which foreign broadcasts were received or reception conditions, and, as he had not listened to any foreign broadcasts personally, he was not able to discuss their merits.

Relationship to Regime.

Source stated that he did not like anything about his country. Least of all he liked the lack of freedom to study where and what he wanted to. He was particularly bitter over the fact that the Communist regime had refused to permit him to acquire a technical training as he had finished his secondary school studies. He was not able to give the names of any three popular people in his country and, as for the least popular three, he shrugged his shoulders and said "the entire Communist government."

Stating that in his opinion the percentage of government employees in the country, who sincerely believe in Communism was very low, source was not able to say what his particular political leanings were. He said that the only organization to which he had belonged was D.S.N.M. /Dimitrov's Youth Union/. He gave as his reason for escaping the fact that after he had finished his studies in the third class of a gymnasium he had wished to continue in technical school. He said that the Communists considered him too anti-regime and even a Fascist, although his father had never been a member of any political organization

and he himself was a member of the D.S.N.M.

"I left Bulgaria because I suffered a lot," he said. As soon as I had finished my studies, I sent my testimonials in to the faculty of carpentry in order to become a student there but I was never admitted. Then I sent them to the drivers' faculty but again I was unlucky. At last I decided to send them to the engineers' faculty but there, too, I met with failure. Finally, I made up my mind to go back to agriculture and work as a peasant in the fields."

After working as a farmer, he then decided to escape because he did not see how it was possible for the situation to improve. "Everything we produce with great difficulty is taken by the state, such as corn, milk, butter, maize, tobacco. They gave us back only a little corn, and grain not sufficient to live on so we were obliged to buy corn from the associations for 1.80 leva per kilo while all the state paid for the same corn was 40 stotinki.

"Taxes are always being increased and I did not see how our position could possibly get better." Source referred once again to his own personal tribulations. "There is great injustice in our village, the children of the chairman of the community, the secretary of the party and the other Communists are accepted in the state schools while I was refused."

Source stated that he had never heard of any overt act of resistance to the Government, but that it was common practice for the farmers and peasants to try to hold back a little grain. He considered that if there were to be liberation of his country, it would have to come from the outside because the Communist Government was too strong to be overthrown from within.

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