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BULGARIA

POLICE & SECURITY
Security measures

Security Measures And Precautions

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Bulgarian escapees to Turkey

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Summer 1951

Any person changing his living quarters must notify local police or militia quarters within 24 hours. In case the person moves from one village to another one he must give notice of his plans 48 hours before he leaves so that the authorities at his new village should have ample time to check on his political background and find suitable lodgings for him in case he is a Communist. As there is an acute housing shortage in all large villages and towns, police and militia authorities have taken up the task of lodging Communists. This is done by requisitioning the necessary rooms from "unreliable" persons, who must be ready at any moment to move out of their houses to give shelter to Communists.

Any unauthorized movement in the border zones is liable to be punished by six months imprisonment. The same is true for anyone who goes hunting within 25 miles of the border.

In the border areas may graze only cattle and sheep belonging to the kolkhoz or sovhoz. No landowner there is allowed to have his animals graze; the animals of those caught in disobeying this order, are requisitioned by the government.

Although there is no official censorship in Bulgaria, any suspicious letters may be opened by militia. Letters going to Turkey from Turkish ethnics in Bulgaria are submitted to a strict control.

Until 10 April 1948, the punishment for trying to escape to a foreign country was six months in jail. Since April 1948, the minimum punishment for trying to escape, has been raised to two years in jail, or three years in a concentration camp. In general, the families of those escaping to Turkey are deported to northern Bulgaria.

Black marketeers and profiteers are liable to be sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to four years. No definite law exists against those listening to foreign radio broadcasts, but paragraph 6 of the new penal code is applied to those "spreading news which might threaten the interests of the government and the Communist Party."

EVAL. COMMENT: correct