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BULGARIA

AGRICULTURE

Collectivization

COMMUNIST PARTY

Criticism, Personalities

YOUTH

Pre-military Training

ARMED FORCES

Training

MORALE & GENERAL MOOD

SOURCE ISTANBUL: "A 24-year-old Bulgarian refugee, lyceum graduate, who was present at the mentioned meeting.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May to August 1951

In August 1951, the Communist Party secretary (NU) in TRECHEKOVO village near YAMBOL laid before the Inspection Committee the cause of those who refused to join the kolkhoz. Cool, confident and precise, the secretary stated that people were not foolish enough to ignore the faulty policies of the administration, which were leading to an unnecessary war and wrecking the internal economy. "People have no more faith in us," he said, "we promised them a peaceful life but, instead, brought them as near to war as possible. During the last six days, 20 peasants asked to leave the kolkhoz. This indicated an evil omen when compared with the thousands who applied to join the T.K.Z.S. a few years ago. Our stocks of weapons are low. In an event of war, Bulgaria cannot hope to defeat her opponents. In my opinion it will be disastrous for us to get into war." He then described how panicky the people would get in case of a war. His speech was followed by complete silence. Finally, the president of the Inspection Committee and Secretary of YAMBOL city council (LNU) Gocho got up and said, "We are not entitled to debate such issues. I think it would be better if every man among us would achieve his task and leave the rest to higher authorities." Forbidding other members to speak, Gocho dismissed the meeting.

According to refugees in Turkey, the Bulgarians think that war is inevitable and the Administration is very busy preparing for such an eventuality.

A new organization, called S.O.O. (Sayuzna Obstestvena Otbrana, Public Defense Organization) was established on 17 May 1951, with the aim of teaching war strategy to the Bulgarian Communist youths, aged 17 to 26.

BULGARIA
(cont'd)

On 1 August 1951, the reserve officers of the classes 1914 to 1920 were called up for duty.

Most of the Bulgarian refugees in Turkey give the danger of war as a reason for their escape.

EVAL. COMMENT: unconfirmed