

ITEM NO. 3796/56

PRIORITY

EH

April 12

V/758

BULGARIA

BULGARIAN SPY RING DISCOVERED IN TURKEY.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Turkish press.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: April 5 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Turkey is one of the main objects of Bulgarian Intelligence. The discovered spy-ring is not the first one of its kind unearthed in Turkey. Thus Radio ANKARA of July 5 1955 and ISTANBUL RFE Item No. 5874/55 reported the arrest of the Bulgarian Vice-Consul in ISTANBUL, Georgi CHOLAKOV, accused of spying. However, no confirmation of this information is available in our files.

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It was revealed by Turkish Security headquarters in ANKARA on April 5 1956, that a spy organization, working on the account of Bulgarian Intelligence, was discovered in the European districts of Turkey.

It has been discovered that a Bulgarian intelligence organization, so far identified only as "E.D.," has been active on both sides of the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier. It is reported that the organization was sending agents to Turkey and at the same time was smuggling people from Turkey into Bulgaria. From correspondence which fell into the hands of Turkish Security, it was learned that a certain number of Turkish ethnics who had emigrated from Bulgaria returned to that country with the aid of "E.D." It was also revealed that the renegades returning to Bulgaria had to pay 100 lira per person for being smuggled into Bulgaria.

For security reasons no further details have been made public. It is stated that a number of arrests is being expected in the next few days.

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