

ITEM No. 3624/52

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17 Mar
XI-245

BULGARIA

EXILES
Refugees and
Emigrants
WOMEN

Wives Of Political Refugees Reported
Forced To Repudiate Husbands, Wed
Communists

SOURCE ATHENS: no information available

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current

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In some recent instances, wives of Bulgarians who have fled the country have been forced to sign declarations repudiating their husbands and then to wed persons picked by the Communist authorities. The male partners of these reverse "shotgun weddings" are usually Communists of the lowest social and moral standing. The reason for this barbarous practice- other than the incidental sadism involved- is believed to be the desire of the regime to erect an additional and powerful psychological deterrent for persons contemplating escape. It has been confirmed that such a fate as that described above befell the wife of GALABAROV Ilia, a Bulgarian who escaped to Greece in the spring of 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: confirmed.