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News BackgroundYUGOSLAV PAPER CALLS BULGARIAN LEADERS "HYPOCRITES"OVER MACEDONIA

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MUNICH, October 26 (Stankovic) -- The Bulgarian leaders are being accused of "hypocrisy" in their attitude toward Yugoslavia. The Skoplje daily "Nova Makedonija" of October 22 published a report by Sveto Serafimov dealing with the recent visit of the theater company of Prilep (a town in Yugoslav Macedonia) to Bulgaria.

Writing under the title "Dark Shadows on a Pleasant Manifestation", Serafimov said that, while some Bulgarian leaders in private talks with the members of the Prilep theater, had admitted without reservation that "the existence of the Macedonian PR (in Yugoslavia) is a historical fact", they are not "courageous enough to state this publicly". Serafimov quoted Boris Vaptsarov, secretary of the District Committee of the Bulgarian CP in Blagoevgrad, as being one of these hypocritical persons. "What sort of morality is this when one thing is stated for domestic and another one for external purposes", Serafimov asked.

He quoted some favorable reviews of the performances given by the Yugoslav theater in various towns of Bulgaria, but added that in all the welcoming speeches and toasts made during various dinners no Bulgarian personality "mentioned by name the Macedonian nation". Said Serafimov: "In all articles published in the (Bulgarian) press nowhere was it said that the Prilep theater was from the Macedonian People's Republic, but only from Yugoslavia. Also in the toasts made at various dinners, one avoided to mention the term 'Macedonia', and, if sometimes this term was mentioned, then it was always in the form of 'the Vardar Macedonia'..."

Gotse Delchev -- Bulgarian or Macedonian?

Serafimov went on to say that from the big busses produced in the Skoplje "11 October" car factory and exported to Bulgaria the name "11 October - Skoplje" had been removed "in order to hide the fact of where these busses had been produced". "They must hide the fact that in the Macedonian PR -- which they attack and very often do not recognize -- such good products are made, products about which even the Bulgarians are enthusiastic", Serafimov jeered.

The Yugoslav journalist added that the Bulgarian attempts to "keep quiet about Macedonia" were "dark shadows on a pleasant

cultural manifestation". In his opinion these "dark shadows" are "the expression of nationalistic frustration and a stubborn escape from a truth which strikes the eye. One of these dark shadows was also the Bulgarian appropriation of our (Macedonian) great revolutionary Gotse Delchev in a speech by the chairman of the District council of Blagoevgrad. But the darkest shadow was provided on last evening of our visit at the farewell dinner in the honor of the Prilep artists in Sofia".

"Bourgeois Revisionism" in Yugoslavia

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Serafimov said that "Georgi Kostov, deputy-director of the ~~Krsto Pankov~~ Higher Institute for Theatrical Arts, made the opening welcoming speech at the dinner and used the opportunity to attack our country."

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Serafimov continued: "Instead of talking about our visit to Bulgaria and about the usefulness of such visits, Kostov talked about 'revisionism in the field of culture and art' which 'is reigning' in Yugoslavia; Kostov also said that the 'bourgeois ideology has a decadent influence on our art and that 'a great number of Yugoslav artistic works are decadent' because 'this is a result of the policy of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia'..."

The Yugoslav journalist then bitterly complained against "a series of allusions" made by Kostov against the Yugoslav leaders for their "conscious or unconscious servitude to the imperialists". Kostov further attacked the Belgrade Drama Theater and at the end called upon the Prilep artists to resist all those "who make possible the breaking through of the bourgeois ideology into Macedonian art". Kostov generously admitted that "revisionism has at least established its roots in Macedonia".

Personal Offenses

Serafimov went on to say that "after Kole Chashule greeted the Bulgarian hosts in the name of the Yugoslav guests... Kostov began making offensive personal remarks which were tantamount to open provocations and were not consonant with hospitality and a readiness for cultural cooperation".

Serafimov continued: "It is necessary to add that Kostov's action was made in the presence of the representatives of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. No official personality at the dinner publicly showed his dislike for Kostov's crude anti-Yugoslav outbursts".

In conclusion Serafimov said that Kostov's "chauvinist outbursts" were in "diametrical opposition" to the official statements

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of the Bulgarian government which propagates good neighborly relations between the two countries". "The nationalistic and chauvinistic attacks by Georgi Kostov against Yugoslavia, made under the cover of ideological purity, as well as the keeping quiet about the existence of the Macedonia PR and the appropriation of the greatest personality of the Macedonian past, cannot be understood as a wish for cooperation. This is a hypocritical attitude," Serafimov maintained.

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