

AH  
12 January 1952  
V/582BULGARIACOMMUNIST PARTY  
PersonalitiesPERSECUTION & PURGESMoralePolitical and economic  
pressureAGRICULTURECollectivizationPeasant Refuses To Join Kolkhoz.SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian refugee from SHISHENTSI, who  
escaped to Turkey on 1 September 1951DATE OF OBSERVATION: Spring and summer 1951

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"In September 1950, the Communists decided to set up a T.K.Z.S. organization in our village SHISHENTSI, about five kilometers from KULA, summoning the 245 families of the village to register in the kolkhoz. Among the Communist officials present were: IVANOV Asen, the president of the Otechestven Front (Patriotic Front) Committee; KINEV Geno, the president of the local Communist organization; and LOZANOV Dimitir, the president of the local Soviet. After the usual speeches praising the advantages of kolkhozes, about 25 to 30 people registered. Most of these were 5 to 10 decare land owners and they all were Communists. The rest of the peasants decided to wait and see before registering.

When the Communists asked me why I did not join, I explained to them that one of my sons was in the Army and the other one had had a pleurisy two years before and was still weak and unable to work, so that I was left alone to work on my land and could not join. LOZANOV Dimitir threatened that if I refused to join he would increase my nared by 50 per cent. KINEV Geno suggested that I be sent to work at the Gorni Lom Electric Power Plant, and (LNU) Rangel, a member of the Otechestven Front Committee, proposed to send me to work at the PERNIK Mine. PETROV Mladen, the president of the T.J.Z.S., said: "If you show any stubbornness we will increase your income tax." I did not yield to these threats and told them I would perhaps join later. But they kept summoning me to militia headquarters every day and sometimes twice or three times a night. LOZANOV and Rangel were always present at these calls, but the others usually present were not always the same Communists. Many of the peasants refusing to join were locked up in reinforced concrete dungeons. The number of persons joining the T.K.Z.S. increased under these threats to more than 100. But the T.K.Z.S. president was not satisfied: he wanted all the villagers to join, and the night summonings continued.

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(cont'd)

One night around 2400 hours, the usual summoning hour, they came again. When my wife opened the window she saw our house surrounded by militia. LOZANOV and LILOV Borko, a clerk of the T.K.Z.S., asked my wife where I was. She told them I was out with the sheep. They left and sent two armed militia-men to look for me. Unable to find me, they returned to my house and left a guard. Next morning as I opened the door I was arrested and taken to militia headquarters. There they asked me why I had not gone at night when I was summoned. I told them I could go during the day instead of going there in the middle of the night. This answer infuriated them and I was fined with 5,000 Leva for not appearing the night before. "But this is ridiculous" I protested, "I have no money to pay such a fine, furthermore my son in the Army is always asking me for money, and I cannot send him any." Without adding anything, they sent me to work at the village school construction where I worked for two days. There I was surprised to find my sick son PEKOV Vilcho Gonoc who had been arrested when the Communists failed to find me at my house. They took him down to militia headquarters and told him to persuade me to join. When my son told them he could not do that they sent him and six other young people from the village to KULA where they found 200 other people from surrounding villages. They were put to break stones when MUYKOV (fnu), the president of the district Otechestven Front Committee, -a man of about 40, of middle height, wearing a felt hat- sent them home without any explanation. When my son arrived at SHISHENTSI, the president of the village Soviet put him to work at the school construction work.

One day, while my son, and I were working at this construction site, the village president took about 30 of us to district militia headquarters where we were summoned one by one into a room. When my turn came I was faced with MUYKOV who insisted on my joining the T.K.Z.S. I refused again and went back to my work at the construction site. The same night I was again summoned to headquarters, but this time MUYKOV was not there. The Communist officials told me bluntly that if I still refused I would be sent to PERNIK and my family would be expelled somewhere else. Not wanting to see my family suffer, I reluctantly registered with the local T.K.Z.S. and the following day they set my sick son free.

EVAL. COMMENT: UNCONFIRMED.