

MP
7 Apr
IV-3227

BULGARIA

JUSTICE /1800/
Courts /1802/
Lawyers /1805/
COMMUNIST PARTY /600/
Personalities /606/

NOTES CONCERNING Naiden RAITCHEV

SOURCE PARIS : Bulgarian refugee

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Early 1949.

EVAL. COMMENT : Nayden Raichev DRIANOVSKI is known to this office as a member of the First Court of Appeals in SOFIA /See Item No 4168/52./

At present he is Vice-President and not President of the Supreme Court /see "Rabotnichesko Delo" of 11 February 1953./

No information is available here on reported details about DRIANOVSKI.

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Prior to 9 October 1944, RAITCHEV was an insignificant lawyer working in the legal department of the Jewish Bank GEOULA in SOFIA. His only work was to recover sums lent by the bank to persons in difficulties. In Bulgaria a lawyer undertakes the functions of notary and bailiff as well as those of lawyer. At the bar, however, there is a definite line of demarcation between lawyers who fulfill the functions of bailiff and those who plead for prisoners.

RAITCHEV was in reality the banks bailiff. His duties were so supervise the seizing of property and to auction it. He earned the same salary as the lower-grade bank employees and a percentage on property seized or money recovered. He became a member of the Communist Party after the 9th. of October, 1944 and was entrusted with tasks of a judiciary nature, such as trials at the People's court where he fulfilled the role of judge. He was rewarded for this work when he became President of the First Court of Appeal in SOFIA. After the trial of Traicho KOSTOV

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at which he presided as President of the Court, he was appointed member of the Supreme Court of Appeal, then President, a post which he still holds.

He was not highly regarded among his colleagues of the bar, due to his insufficient legal training, his general lack of the legal knowledge and his poor oratory. From the physical point of view, he was ill suited to his work. He had a thin, uncertain voice and his personality did not inspire confidence. This is why he did not seek to practice as a lawyer on his own. He preferred a modest but secure job as second-grade employee in a bank. His lack of personal opinions gained him rapid promotion in the Party. He also had another quality much appreciated by the Communists. He was always quick to obey orders, no matter what they were. This became manifest during the trial of Traitcho KOSTOV /former Security of the Communist Party tried for Titoism and high treason/. At the first hearing, everything had been prepared in advance and RAITCHEV, as President started examination of the prisoner, feeling quite sure that the latter would confess. To RAITCHEV's stupefaction, the prisoner denied all charges. RAITCHEV was completely disconcerted, and lost his head. In conformity with his miserable character, he postponed proceedings and withdrew to ask instructions from the Party. This is the first time in the juridical annals of Bulgaria that a judge, when the accused pleaded "not guilty," did not proceed to the examination of the witnesses. He suspended the hearing and retired with other members of the tribunal with no valid legal reason for this action. But as a faithful servant of the Communist Party, he did not dare make any decisions and retired to ask advice. RAITCHEV left the court to the sound of stifled laughter of the other jurists who still retained some sense of the dignity of a court of justice, and remained absent for 40 minutes. Proceedings were then resumed and the trial continued.

For this action, RAITCHEV was named Judge of the High Court of Appeal.

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