

AH
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BULGARIA

COMMUNIST PARTY
Personalities
Misuse of power
Criminal activities

Two Communists Accused of Murdering
Third

SOURCE ATHENS: a 26-year-old Bulgarian from KARLOVO who escaped to Greece on 7 April 1952

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1951 - 1952.

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A scandal involving two prominent adherents of the regime in KARLOVO broke out in 1951, according to a recently arrived refugee from that town. DONEV Kyril, a member of the Patriotic Front committee, and GERTCHOV (fnu), the departmental commander of police, were arrested on a charge of murder. At the time when the warrant for his arrest was issued, GERTCHOV was in the USSR on a special training course. Recalled to Bulgaria, he was put in jail as soon as he arrived.

Toward the end of the German occupation, DONEV and GERTCHOV had gone into the mountains, ostensibly to fight as Communist guerrillas. Once there, however, instead of devoting themselves to resistance activity, they turned brigands, raping village-women and plundering friend and foe alike. Many complaints were subsequently made against them by their victims, and a Party investigator (NU) was sent to KARLOVO to inquire into their past. The agent suddenly disappeared, and it was not till long afterwards that it was discovered DONEV and GERTCHOV had murdered him. The refugee did not know the name of the investigator nor the circumstances of his murder.

Another charge against them is that they accepted bribes from Moslems to facilitate their emigration to Turkey.

Up to date of the source's escape, the two ex-officials' trial had not been held.

EVAL COMMENT: No information available.