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28 May
1/10418

BULGARIA

PROPAGANDA
Radio

(2600)
(2605)

Radio Reception And Reactions Of A Listener.

SOURCE MURICH : A Bulgarian refugee who fled via Greece to the West in October 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Until October 1952.

EVALUATION COMMENT : Matters in general correspond with information available in our files.

Miss SIDEROVA is not known to this office. Tenebo TENEV worked with the BBC in the past, but this office has no information on his connections with VOA. Vlada KARASTOYANOVA has been working with the BBC since World War II. MATZANKIEV also worked with the BBC in World War II and for the last two years he has been working with the RFE Bulgarian Desk in NEW YORK. Kosta TODOROV died in PARIS two years ago; he was a journalist and it is very likely that he worked with BBC. This office has no information that TODOROV had worked with VOA.

SPECIAL ATTENTION : Mr. KELLEY
Mr. HOLMIN.

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Source and his friends listened usually to foreign programs between 1930 and 2230 hours. Occasionally they turned the radio on at 0600 hours. Since source listened only during this time he did not know what were the best or the poorest hours for reception.

According to source, the most popular programs among his friends and acquaintances were those of VOA, BBC, Radio PARIS, and Radio

(Over)

ATHENS, in the stated order. Source never had heard RFE, Radio BELGRAD, or Radio "GORIANIN", although he had heard the latter mentioned by a friend. The Voice and BBC were heard almost nightly depending on the power supply, which was steady during daylight hours, but was often cut-off after 1930 hours in the evening. There was no fixed pattern to the current schedule. - Ordinarily, the current was on three to five evenings per week and sometimes every night. Power supply at the village was 220 Volts but source did not know whether it was AC or DC.

The four above mentioned stations had usually come in clear and strong. Source did not know whether these programs were coming in direct from countries producing them or from relay stations. They all were received on short wave only. Source had never heard intentional jamming of a foreign program to his knowledge. There was, however, occasional interference due to weather conditions.

The main reason for listening was a desire for news of the Free World as well as boredom with the Communist type of propaganda.

Personally, source liked the programs and listened at every opportunity. He considered straight news of the world affairs, talks on the way of life in the Free World, news on Bulgarian affairs, and news of Communist personalities arrested and liquidated as the most popular programs. For example, the stories on the down-fall of KOSTOV Traicho, SLANSKY Rudolf, and PAUKER Ana excited much interest in his locality. The main obstacles to listening were fear of police detection and lack of power supply. It was an unwritten law, however, that people listened to programs at every opportunity.

Most of the radios were pre-war and the following makes were most common, listed in order of prevalence:

1. Philips
2. Toulon
3. Mende
4. Blaupunkt.

With minor exceptions, all radios which source had seen in his village operated on short wave, medium wave and long wave.

Personalities heard by source on radio

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| "SIDEROVA" | - from Radio ATHENS. A Bulgarian girl who says she formerly lived in BURGAS. |
| "TENEV Toneho" | - from VOA. A former engineer at the PERNIK Mine in Bulgaria. |

(Over)

KARASTOYANOVA Vladys	- from VOA or BBC (source did not remember).
MATZANKIEV	- VOA or BBC.
TODOROV Kosta	- Heard on VOA until about two years ago, at which time he heard a broadcast stating that he had died.

End.