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BULGARIA

YOUTH /3500/
Morals /3505/
Organizations /3506/

REGIME ENCOURAGES FLAMING YOUTH TO BLAZE.

SOURCE TRIESTE: A Bulgarian emigrant who recently arrived in the West.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: March 1956

EVALUATION COMMENT: This report supplies a convincing description of the circumstances under which the Bulgarian youths live and receive their education. For more details on this problem, please, consult RFE VIENNA Item No. 110/8/55. The Evaluation of the morale of the Bulgarian youths seems highly exaggerated and must be considered to be purely personal. No information is available here that CHERVENKOV ever had any children.

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Source gave the following account of the life of young people in Bulgaria:

" If a foreigner were to go to Bulgaria, especially to SOFIA, he would get the impression that the young people are happy. It is true that the Bulgarian youths have changed, even for those who saw them grow up. Communist education has created a new youth - - an unquestionable success of the Communist Regime. Mothers cannot bring up their own children because difficult living conditions have obliged them to work just like their husbands. Children's nurseries are, therefore, found all over SOFIA. No expense has been spared in equipping these nurseries. Each has a garden and a playground which is expanded in the summer when the children can spend more time in the open air, and when the number of voluntary " teachers" increases. The " teachers" are highschool and normal school students who are sent to the nurseries for a period of " preliminary training." Credit is given for this training whether the "teacher" is going to complete her studies in this field, or whether she intends to go into another field, e.g. faculty of agronomy, etc.

" Without exception, the older children belong to the " Septemvrijche" organization. In this organization they are given political training, and the spirit of independence and disobedience to their parents is drummed into them. Summer

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vacations, which would be one of the few opportunities for children of spending some time with parents and come under the favorable influence of family education, are completely exploited by the Communists for the political "education" of youth at the so-called "summer rest camps," "children's rest resorts," "summer colonies," etc. The children in the summer camps are taken care of by young lycee students who are DSNM Dimitrov's Youth Union activists. Their activity is compensated for by the privilege of certain admission to the university or sure employment. The DSNM identification booklet has a number of blank pages upon which are noted their social activities. Their work as "instructors" in summer camps is an asset for them, and membership in the "Union of Communist Youth" is considered a special honor by these students. Membership in this organization is in fashion. If a young person is not a member of this organization he is frowned upon by everyone and, even considered mentally unbalanced.

All the former female tramps /bezdelnitski/, many of whom were persecuted by the Communist Regime as "immoral elements" / bitovo razlozheni/, are now instructors at the Dimitrov's Youth Union. The DSNM youth clubs are nests of prostitution and sometimes even provoke the indignation of the Communists themselves. In the highschools sexual relations between the students are not frowned upon, but rather encouraged, either directly or indirectly. The parents cannot intervene, even when they are influential Communists. Parties are held at the schools for students of both sexes, and the students are even permitted to frequent places of amusement for young people who do not attend school. The purpose is to put into practice the Communist slogan: "to create strong ties between school youth and the people."

"Two years ago SOFIA buzzed with the scandal involving an airforce officer /NU/ and Valko CHERVENKOV's daughter.

"Many influential Communists criticized the morals of today's youth, but the situation has not changed. Everything is justified by the fact that this is a "new era", with "new needs of modern youth" and with the "creation of comradeship and trust between men and women on the basis of emancipation." Toward this end the Regime instituted many reforms, so that now there is no legal prohibition against unmarried couples living together. A recent law has legalized "trial marriages". The new marriage law of 1952, passed to strengthen the above-mentioned law, eliminated all the juridical consequences for violations of morality. Present day Bulgarian morals are justified by the following dialectic: "everything that nature demands of us is legal. Why should not youth take advantage of the pleasures life offers? The laws of nature are stronger than those made by man; human beings change but nature remains eternal with its ruthless laws."

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" Undoubtedly, a youth loves freedom and does not stop to question when he is told to take advantage of every freedom in his daily life. Freedom in personal relationships is had in exchange for subservience to Party directives.

" I am of the opinion that the Bulgarian youths are living under great work stress, inasmuch as the Communist Regime has succeeded through very effective propaganda, in regimenting and enthusing young people. Many young people sacrifice their free time to devote it to the activity of executing Party initiatives. The youths, especially the very young generations who grew up under Communist tutelage, are always ready to make sacrifices when the Party or Regime asks them to do so. However, it must be admitted that even the Regime makes sacrifices for the young people, especially with regard to education and athletics. Two-thirds of the students of schools of higher learning in Bulgaria are studying under scholarships, offered to them by a special fund or by State organizations. Nevertheless I believe the Communists are fooling themselves when they place their implicit trust in these young people, who become enthusiastic easily and lose that enthusiasm even more quickly."

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