

ITEM No.8564/53

COMMUNICATIONS (0500)  
Waterways, Ships (0507)  
COMMUNIST PARTY (600)  
Personalities (606)

D  
VII/879  
21 August

BULGARIA

Repatriation Of Some Members Of the Crew Of the  
S.S. Hristo Smirnenski.

SOURCE TRIESTE : confidential

DATE OF OBSERVATION : end of July 1953.

EVAL. COMMENT : It is confirmed here that the reported persons belong to the crew of the ship "Hristo Smirnenski" / see Item No 6178/53./ However, no information is available here on the rest of reported details.

X X X

Following are the names of 17 men belonging to the crew of the Bulgarian ship "Hristo Smirnenski," who will be repatriated following orders given by the ship owners for economical reasons, owing to the fact that the "Smirnenski" will have to stay for at least two or three months longer in dry dock.

Dimitar Stefanov POULEV  
Vladimir Varbanov CHERVENSKI  
Dimitar Kostov TOMOV  
Valcho Vassilev AMECHEV  
Dimitar Gantchev NIKOLOV  
Vladimir Stefanov STANEV  
Atanas Stefanov ATANASSOV  
Garabed Sarkizov HAZAROSSIAN  
Ivan Mihailov KRESTEV  
Dimitar Ivanov DAMIANOV  
Angel Jekov DAMIANOV  
Vassil Nikolov VASSILEV  
Ilija Jechev DIMITROV  
Dimitar Gospodinov PASKOV  
Stojan Kalinov NEDELTCHEV  
Alexander Ivanov JEKOV  
Artiun Bohos EXERDJIAN

III Officer  
IV "  
IV Engineer  
Pilot  
"  
"  
Sailor  
"  
"  
Engineer  
Firestoker  
"  
Engineer  
Firestoker  
Cook  
Waiter  
Baker

/more/

The above-mentioned 17 men left TRIESTE at 10:00 a.m. on 5 July 1953, and arrived via MESTRE - FERRARA in RAVENNA at 7 p.m. of the same day.

As we reported previously, they were originally supposed to board another Bulgarian ship in TARANTO, BRINDISI or OTRANTO, i.e. the "Rodina," whose dispatch to one of the above-mentioned three harbors was revoked, however. The repatriated crew members will, therefore, board the motorboat "Nikola Vaptzarov", which will carry them to DURAZZO where they will transboard to the "Rodina," which will sail to Bulgaria.

The selection of the 17 men to be repatriated presented great difficulties for the command of the "Hristo Smirnenski." The political commissar, Hristo PETROV, was consulted, as well as the "activist" of the Communist Party on board. The first selection of names had to be altered at least three times. These modifications were greatly due to the order issued by the political section of the "Navigation Maritime Bulgare" in STALIN, which had insisted, at the beginning that the secretary of the Communist Party on board, the fire stoker, Dimitar Paskalev SHTEREV, should remain on ship, and should not be repatriated. In fact, SHTEREV, had asked, right from the beginning, to be added to the list of those who were to be repatriated; and had refused to obey the orders given by the political section in STALIN. However, when this order was repeated and when it was pointed out to him that, above all, the members of the Party have to obey orders, SHTEREV gave in and remained on board the "Smirnenski." In his place, instead, the fire stoker Vasil Nikolov VASSILEV, was sent home. Another telegram which was successively dispatched by the political section of STALIN advised the political commissar, Hristo PETROV, to keep as many members of the P.C. as possible on board, and to have only the non-Communists repatriated. The telegram justified this advice by stating "it is necessary not to weaken the Communist cadres on board ship."

E n d