

AH
11 January 1952
V/568

BULGARIA

BORDER ZONES

SECURITY MEASURES

Security

PERSECUTION & PURGES

Morale

Political & economic pressure

Security Measures In LESOVO.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian escapee in Turkey, a former inhabitant of the Turkish-Bulgarian border region.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1951

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The increased number of border troops automatically caused increased precautionary measures in and around LESOVO. All suspicious inhabitants from the village were either sent to concentration camps, or were forced to move into villages further north.

PAYLOV Pavel Dimitr, considered "untrustworthy," was sent to a concentration camp in the Dobrudja region. MIHAILOV Dimitir Ivan was sentenced to five years of prison for subversive activities and sent to the SLIVEN jail. TASHEV Tasho Demov, PARAPANOV Peter Stoyanov and NEYCHEV Georgi Peev were fined 50,000 Leva each for not delivering their "nared" on time and were removed from the village and sent north to the RUSE district.

The teacher of the village, DIMITROV Pavel, was forbidden to teach, and had to leave for the north to find employment as a laborer.

After having cleared the village of these unreliable elements, the next step of the Communist officers was to kill all the dogs in the village so as to enable their spies to sneak up to the houses without being detected.

The villagers were forbidden to drive their animals to pasture and only the kolkhoz members had a right to use the village grazing ground.

It was customary with the Communists to liquidate their border zone prisoners in such a way as if they were shot while trying to escape across the border. Prisoners were taken to the "Tundja" river's shore where they were made to face the Turkish border and then were riddled with bullets.

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BULGARIA
(cont'd)

The "fugitives" had no burial but only a few shovels of earth thrown over their bodies. The inhabitants of nearby villages who tried to bury the killed prisoners were submitted to severe punishments. But this system of elimination has changed lately, and the unwanted prisoners are not executed immediately. New torture installations were brought to MALKO TIRNOVO, and militia and border troop administrations cooperate in extracting confessions from the inhabitants of the border zone and in persecuting others on the basis of such confessions.

Compared to August and September 1951, the number of travelling permits delivered in October 1951 greatly decreased. No permits can be had for a visit of a dying relative in the next village, nor may parents receive permits to visit their sons in the army. Whenever new fortifications are built, that particular district falls under complete martial law, and on no pretense whatsoever may civilians enter the outlined area.

EVAL. COMMENT: Matters confirmed by other sources but names are unknown.