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5 January 1952
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BULGARIA

AGRICULTURE
Collectivization

COMMUNIST PARTY
Criticism

PERSECUTION AND PURGES
Moral
Political and Economic Pressure

The Remarkable Milk Production Of Russian

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 21-year-old Bulgarian escapee in Turkey, from DOBRELEVO village near OREHOVO
DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1951

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IVANOSHOVICH Mari, a member of the Soviet committee delegated to the investigation of kolkhozes in the RAGOZEN, MALORAD, DOBRELEVO, SIRAKOVO, ALTIMIR and MANASTIRISHTA villages near OREHOVO, after 150 peasants had withdrawn from kolkhozes and 100 sheep had been poisoned, declared before the gathered peasants, "I've been milking cows for 22 years. As an expert, I can assure you that it is possible for each cow to give 60 kilograms of milk a day."

After Mari had seated herself with dignity on her platform chair there followed a deadly silence. Finally, PANCHEV Yoto, from MALORAD, asked for the floor and addressing himself to her asked for her age. Blushing from the implication but in true Communist spirit, Mari answered pleasantly, "32." There was a snicker in the auditorium. PANCHEV, now showing his anger and exasperation, spoke plainly. "Comrade Mari, we cannot help but adore the generosity of the cows in the USSR but our best cows feeding on Bulgaria's famous mountain grass will produce only 12 kilograms a day." There was a pause. "By the way," he continued, "we are impressed with the fact that you are 32 years old, have milked for 22 years, and yet have still found time for your excellent education."

The hero, Yoto, arrested for "reactionary attitude," is now in OREHOVO prison.

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed.