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STUDY OF MEDICINE.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 29-year-old Bulgarian doctor, a graduate of PLOVDIV's Medical Academy who escaped to Turkey in November 1955.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until November 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Source's opinion on why fewer students study medicine this being a less lucrative profession and necessitating a political good conduct certificate has also been shared by previous sources.

According to information available in our files Elisey YANEV, now professor of microbiology at the PLOVDIV Medical Academy, was rector of the said institution, and the present rector, according to source, Zhivko LAMBREV, was only vice-rector. The rest of the persons named are unknown to this office.

Characteristic of the Bulgarian medical training is the great importance attributed to political training, which is of no use to MDs.

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Although in his previous reports source always spoke of the Faculty of Medicine of PLOVDIV University, he claims that this designation is not correct as the faculties of medicine both at SOFIA and PLOVDIV became independent "academies" in 1948-49. The former faculties are now known as the "Meditsinka Akademiya-Kilment Ohridski" in SOFIA and the "Meditsinka Akademiya - Ivan Petrovich Pavlov" in PLOVDIV. While the SOFIA Academy bears the name of a Bulgarian historical figure and churchman, the PLOVDIV academy was named in honor of the Russian Nobel prize-winning physiologist.

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Source stated that with every passing year a lesser number of students is accepted at the two medical academies. In 1945, 3,500 medical students were accepted at SOFIA and roughly 900 at PLOVDIV. Since 1952 not more than 300 students apply annually for admission to PLOVDIV's "Ivan Petrovich Pavlov Academy." According to source's estimate, there is one doctor to every 700 inhabitant in Bulgaria. At the present rate of increase, Bulgaria will have one doctor for each 500 people within 15 years. Nowadays fewer people want to study medicine for two main reasons: first, the medical profession does not pay well, and second, not everyone can produce the necessary political "good conduct" certificate demanded prior to being admitted as a student of medicine.

More and more political courses are included in the curriculum of the medical schools. First year students at PLOVDIV's "I.O. Pavlov Academy" have to study philosophy of natural sciences, second and third year students must learn the Russian language, history and literature and fourth year students study political economy while fifth graders must pass exams in dialectic materialism. Source pointed out that none of the above courses have any practical value to a student of medicine.

During the years that source spent at the PLOVDIV medical academy, there were no foreign students at the institute. He claims that in more recent years, i.e. 1953-55, a number of "students from Asia" have come to study at PLOVDIV. He does not know whether these are North Koreans or Red Chinese.

A number of Bulgarian medical students go every year to other Iron Curtain countries to specialize in certain medical fields. Most students go to Czechoslovakia and the USSR. Professors from Bulgaria also attend additional training courses in the Soviet Union and her satellites. For example Prof. TASKOV of the PLOVDIV Medical Academy, spent 6 months in Czechoslovakia in 1952-53. As far as source knows, no students or professors are allowed to study in the West, and until 1955 Bulgarian medical men only rarely assisted at medical congresses held in the West.

Source gave the full staff of the PLOVDIV Medical Academy as follows:

Prof. Zhivko LAMBREV, rector of the academy and holder of the chair of Biology;

Prof. KARABASHEV, holder of the chair of Physics;

Prof. STANISHEV, professor of Anatomy and Topographic /?/
Anatomy;

Prof. KRISTANOV, holder of the chair of Philosophy;

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Prof. Ivan MITEV, holder of the chair of Biochemistry;
Prof. ZAVIALOV, holder of the chair of Physiology;
Prof. Jores YORDANOV, professor of Histology;
Prof. GERASIMOV, professor of the Russian language
and literature;
Prof. IVANOV, holder of the chair of Chemistry;
Prof. TELCHAROV, professor of Patologic Physiology;
Prof. PRODANOV, professor of Patologic Anatomy;
Prof. HAYDUDOV, professor of Surgery and Orthopedy;
Prof. CHERVENAKOV, professor of Surgical Philosophy
/hirurgicheska propodevtika/;
Prof. Elisey YANEV, professor of Microbiology;
Prof. B. YURUKOV, professor of Pharmacology;
Prof. V. MIHAILOV, professor of Roentgenology;
Prof. RASHEV, professor of Internal Clinical Studies;
Prof. DIMITROV, professor of Surgical Clinical Studies;
Prof. ZAPRIANOV, holder of the chair of Neurology;
Prof. WAYDENOV, professor of Hygiene;
Prof. BACHVAROV, professor of Dermatology;
Prof. CHOLAKOV, professor of Psychiatry;
Prof. ANDREEV, professor of Pediatrics;
Prof. Lambri LAMBREV, professor of Gynecology;
Prof. TASKOV, professor of contagious diseases;
Prof. TSOKOV, professor of Judicial Medicine;
Prof. PASSI, professor of Dialectic Materialism;
Asst. Prof. MITEV, assistant to the rector, chief
of administration;
Asst. Prof. MIHAILOV, assistant to the rector, professor
of preventive medical studies;

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Asst. Prof. BALTOVA, professor of the German language;

Asst. Prof. HALACHEV, professor of Occulism;

Asst. Prof. BOTUSHAROV, professor of Laryngology.

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