

LS  
22 February 1952  
XI/ 193

BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES  
Air Forces

RESISTANCE  
Sabotage

CIVILIAN WORKERS ACCUSED OF SABOTAGE IN SEAPLANE SINKINGS

SOURCE: ATHENS, a radio operator of a Greek vessel which called at STALIN(VARNA) in January 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: January 1952.

Nine civilian workers of the GEBEDZHE seaplane base near STALIN(VARNA) were arrested on 22 January 1952 for alleged sabotage causing the sinking of two seaplanes in the night of 20 to 21 January. One of the lost aircraft was of recent Soviet-made type and the other was an obsolete German model. Those arrested vigorously denied the charge, arguing that the planes sank either because of the negligence of the guards or because of an accident; but they were nevertheless transported to STALIN to be court martialled. It was learned that the nine workers were arrested by military security police over the protest of the commanding officer of the base, who was convinced of their innocence. It is believed that military security police, which was responsible for the safety of the planes, arrested the workers to cover up their own negligence.

EVAL.COMMENT: UNCONFIRMED, but considering the personal knowledge of source may be true.