

ES
April 21
V-768/C

BULGARIA

COMMUNIST PARTY (0600)
Personalities (0606)

BIG FISH IN A LITTLE POND.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: 36-year-old Bulgarian farmer and his 25-year-old wife who escaped from RAZDEL in October 1955.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until October 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This office possesses no information about the persons mentioned in this report and their activities.

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Kolyu Stoyanov BABACHEV, 42, father of four children and an elementary school graduate, is the Communist Party secretary at RAZDEL. In the 1930s, BABACHEV worked for source's father as a field hand and later was employed in the village as a stone-cutter. Prior to September 1944, BABACHEV never showed any signs of sympathy toward the Communist cause but (after the Red coup d'état he immediately joined the terrorist group which had taken over the administration of the village.

In 1945, Kolyu BABACHEV was sent to the village GOLIAM DERVENT as "overseer for harvesting." In early 1946, he returned to RAZDEL and became the village CP secretary. In 1948, when the RAZDEL collective farm was set up, BABACHEV became the CP secretary at the T.K.Z.S. He remained at that post until February 15 1955, at which date he again became CP secretary of the entire village. In 1954, Kolyu BABACHEV was elected to the Communist Party borough committee.

According to source, BABACHEV is one of the rare Communists who actually believes that what he is doing is correct. BABACHEV is no opportunist, and he has never misused his authority to serve his personal interests. In 1955, his house is just as bare of furniture and luxury as it was in 1944. Not even his worst enemies at RAZDEL can state that BABACHEV has accepted a bribe or that he has embezzled funds from the collective farm. BABACHEV, according to source, is an idealist who believes that it is his duty to serve the Communist regime.

During the summer months of 1953, RAZDEL authorities were informed that a group of three prospective refugees was

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headed toward the Turkish border. BABACHEV and a militiaman ambushed the group, and caught one young man whom they later delivered to security authorities at ELHOVO. Although the other two prospective escapees disappeared, BABACHEV received his reward: he was given a wristwatch which he proudly showed to everyone in the village.

BABACHEV refuses to listen to any advice when carrying out directives received from higher Party quarters. In the spring of 1954, word was received that the sunflower sowing campaign would have to begin earlier than usual. That year, heavy rains had turned the fields into marshland, and all TAZDEL farmers told CP secretary BABACHEV that it would be impossible to carry out the plans for sowing sunflower. The secretary refused to listen to this advice and sent for the tractors of the ELHOVO M.T.S. The fields were ploughed and the sunflower seeds sown in deep mud. A few days later, the Bulgarian state radio network announced that the RAZDEL collective farm had completed the spring sowing of 1,200 dekares of sunflower ahead of schedule. BABACHEV was singled out as the only CP secretary whose village had fully carried out the governmental plan. A few months later, however, all villages in the ELHOVO region had an abundant sunflower crop, with the exception of RAZDEL where not a single gram of 'olio' was distributed to members of the collective farm.

Penko Todorov PENOV, 35, father of two children, is the president of the RAZDEL people's council. His father, Todor PENOV, was known for his Communist tendencies prior to 1944 and he was among the first to set up a Communist terror group in RAZDEL. Many years ago, the PENOVs were among the wealthiest farmers in RAZDEL and they owned 250 dekares of land. Old man Todor disliked working and he preferred to sell part of his land every year and live off the money thus acquired. By 1944, the family owned only 100 dekares. None of Todor PENOV's six children liked steady work. Instead of farming on their own land, they worked as field-hands, apprentices, cowherds. These jobs were not permanent and, therefore, they suited the PENOVs. Penko PENOV went to Greece in 1941 with the Bulgarian occupation army and stayed there until 1944. While in Greece, he served as a forest guard and after his return to Bulgaria continued in the same capacity in the ELHOVO region. In 1953, he was elected people's deputy and was named RAZDEL village people's council president. During the years that he worked as a forest guard, Penko made a small fortune for himself. He had a house built in 1948 and two years later had a second house built for his brothers.

Nikola Slavov VILCHEV, 36, graduate of secondary school, father of two children, is the president of the RAZDEL

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Carpenters' Cooperative and is a former CP village secretary. At the time when BABACHEV was CP secretary at the collective farm, VILCHEV was in charge of all independent artisans and farmers in the village. A carpenter by trade, he and a number of fellow carpenters from MALOMIROVO and LESOVO decided to form a cooperative with headquarters at RAZDEL. VILCHEV became the president of the new cooperative. Although today his monthly salary amounts to only 700 levas, he is one of the wealthiest men in the village. During the years he worked as an independent carpenter he amassed a fortune by selling pine-wood on the black market. He also had a contract with military authorities around RAZDEL, whereby he alone could supply furniture and woodwork to the barracks and officers' houses along that part of the border. VILCHEV also made a lot of money by dismantling the strong-boxes built by the Germans during World War II. He sold all the wood and the steel doors which he could move. In 1953 he was brought to court, charged with stealing government property but one of his men took the blame upon himself and VILCHEV was acquitted. The man who took all the blame was sentenced to one year in jail and it was rumored in the village that VILCHEV had paid him 100,000 levas for this "service."

VILCHEV joined the Communist Party in 1945 and, on many occasions, has served as village representative at various meetings held at ELHOVO and BURGAS.

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