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BULGARIA

RESISTANCE AND CRITICISM

Underground

ARMED FORCES

Resistance

PRISONS AND CAMPS

Inmates

Resistance Movement In TOLBUHIN (Ex-DOBRICH)

Area

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Interview with three Turkish ethnic emigrants from Bulgaria.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1946 to 1952.

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The TOLBUHIN (old name DOBRICH) area in Bulgaria has always been considered as a hot spot for anti-Communist activities and the SOFIA Government lately has been paying much attention to it. Ever since 1946, a number of armed resistance groups have been reportedly fighting in the mountains, although this number had allegedly diminished during the last two years.

The real trouble in TOLBUHIN started early in 1946, when Agrarian Party member, lawyer NIKOLOV Arsen, 45, "Rayonen Kooperativen Sayuz" (area cooperative) secretary (LNU) Dimitir, General CHINGAROV (fnu), 50, the commander of the TOLBUHIN garrison, and TEMENUGOV Georgi, a rich businessman, organized a resistance movement in the area.

The arms supplied by Staff Sergeant MITOV Ivan were hidden in warehouses; but one night in 1946, his house was raided by a group of secret police agents who found 12 rifles and a large amount of ammunition. MITOV was immediately arrested and sent to DIMITROVO camp where he stayed up to 1952, when he was mysteriously released and returned to TOLBUHIN. There he bought the house of a Turkish ethnic named (LNU) Riza, and settled to a comparatively comfortable life. After his arrest in 1946, his 85-year-old father Mito was taken to the STALIN prison where he died six months later. Following Ivan's arrest, the arms and ammunition, a great part of which were hidden in different spots in the mountains of Gazi Baba, were confiscated by the Communists after a denunciation by a member (NU) of the resistance organization. About 150 members of the anti-Communist organization were arrested at STEFANOVA, BUGDAN, KARABASHLI and BALLIDJA villages. Ivan's father-in-law MANALOV Ivan, a grocer, was also

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arrested, as 10 tons of dry beans, stored as supplies for the resistance members, were found hidden in his warehouse. The arrested partisans were taken to the STALIN prison where most of them died, and others were sent to various concentration camps. Lawyer NIKOLOV Arsen was sent to Rositsa camp in 1947, where he still was in 1950. TEME-NUGOV Georgi and Dimitir were also sent to Rositsa camp in 1947, but nothing is known of their fate. General CHINGAROV was taken to MINA DIMITROVO camp and nothing has been heard of him since. His wife, a former teacher, is now working as a seamstress.

EVAL. COMMENT: No information available.