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BULGARIA

COMMUNIST PARTY
Personalities

STATE APPARATUS
Government

SOCIAL STRUCTURE
Upper Class
Profiteers of Regime

The LUKANOFF Family.

SOURCE MUNICH: A 32-year-old Bulgarian refugee who fled to west Germany during the World Youth Festival in BERLIN in August 1951. Source was subsequently exploited by BBC, as a radio commentator and analyst, and is currently residing in MUNICH, Germany. By profession, source was a public stenographer and was also engaged as a secretary by the head of a Bulgarian credit institution. He appears, both, reliable and objective. Source knew the persons mentioned in this report, personally and through acquaintances.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until summer of 1951

Recently, in February or March 1952, the Bulgarian press announced that LUKANOFF Karlo, the chairman of the Bulgarian State Planning Commission, was appointed Deputy-Prime Minister.

Comrade LUKANOFF's success is attributed to the fact that he is the son of the deceased Bulgarian Communist leader, LUKANOFF Todor, who died toward the end of World War II in exile in the USSR.

To go back in Communist history in Bulgaria, it must be recalled that after the bloody anti-Communist drives in September 1923, the three top Communist leaders and members of the Politbureau, DIMITROFF Georgi, KOLAROFF Wassil, and LUKANOFF Todor escaped to Soviet Russia. After the "liberation" of Bulgaria in September 1944, a Bulgarian Communist member of a political delegation in MOSCOW visited the ailing LUKANOFF in his home there. "Home," naturally, does not describe this small dark den. Actually, better termed a hovel, the residence of the famous LUKANOFF consisted of a small dark room, having only one small window. The room itself was furnished with a bed, a chair and a table. A cooking range completed the interior decoration. The air was dank and musty. The elder LUKANOFF at that time rose and greeted his visitor recognizing the name of the son of an old friend of his. He exclaimed: "Assentcho? Assentcho!" (DATZIEFF Assentcho, Secretary of the Bulgarian

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legation in MOSCOW from 1944 to 1946.) What is Soviet Russia!? What has happened to Bulgaria!?", drawing the comparison between the horrible living conditions in the USSR and how well off he once was in Bulgaria. He continued to express the sole desire of his life - to return to his mother land once more before passing away.

A little while later, LUKANOFF's wife Kotza came and wept at the sight of a visitor from Bulgaria. Their evening meal consisted of baked beans, the best they could afford, and a delicacy for the two exiles.

After this demise (the Soviets had not permitted him to leave their country alive) his widow, two sons and families received permission to return to Bulgaria. LUKANOFF's Kotza first word on arriving again in her country of birth was a request for a chicken dinner. She was amazed at the prosperity that confronted her in Bulgaria after so many years of poverty in MOSCOW.

Though completely impoverished on their arrival, the Communist Party soon saw to it that a prosperous wind blew their way. Alberto, one of the sons, was able to practice medicine, and instead of having to wear patched pants and listen to the heartbeats of his patients with the naked ear, he soon managed to rehabilitate himself and purchased a stethoscope and other necessary instruments. LUKANOFF Karlo, however, went into politics.

The degree of prosperity that the two enjoy now is indicated by their standard of living. Alberto has a large house, many expensive medical instruments and a lucrative medical practice. However, his Soviet Russian wife has not progressed much over the standard of living, which she formerly enjoyed in the USSR, and it is common gossip that, although the house is expensive, it is one of the most ill-kept and dirtiest in SOFIA.

Karlo rose rapidly in the political hierarchy of the Communist Party. At first, chairman of the Communist Cultural Committee (ENIK,) he later became a member of the Council of Ministers. Through his Communist affiliations, he managed to obtain an extremely comfortable and well-furnished residence on Dobrudja-Street 6 in SOFIA. His Soviet Russian housewife did not enjoy either the reputation of being an orderly or overly clean housekeeper.

In the earlier days, Karlo's youngest daughter, (he has a son and two daughters) used to welcome their guests by exclaiming "welcome, come in and see our cupboard - look at all

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the food we have." Without waiting for an answer, she used to take the guest's hand and show him the various boxes and parcels that they had stored in the wall-length cupboard in the kitchen.

Karlo's next step on the political ladder was that of chairman of the State Planning Commission. With the new position, a larger house was supplied, and instead of a cupboard consisting of shelves in the kitchen, they now had a complete pantry outfitted with enough staples and food to supply a normal family of four for six months. Today, Karlo is Deputy-Prime Minister and has a house in the new aristocratic Communist section, in the Fifth Military District of SOFIA, protected by an armed militiaman in a sentry box. Needless to say, the cupboards or pantry have grown in proportion to the house. Karlo also has a red-colored ZIS with chauffeur.

Although Karlo professes to be a fearless Communist, he has often expressed the fear that his telephone is being tapped; he shies away from liquor in fear that it would loosen his tongue.

EVAL. COMMENT: Information of LUKANOV's position with the Bulgarian Government and the Bulgarian Communist Party is correct. Information about his financial situation and family life is general occurrence in the entire Communist upper class in Bulgaria.