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BULGARIA

COMMUNIST PARTY  
Criminal Activities  
Personalities

PERSECUTION & PURGES

Morale  
Political & economic pressure

Communists Stage Bomb Attack In Order To Arrest  
Members Of The Opposition.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 46-year-old Bulgarian escapee

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 15 to 30 June 1947.

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During the night of 15 to 16 June 1947, an attempt was made to blow up the town-hall of GULOVO village near YAMBOL. The real story behind the scenes was as follows:

The Communists of the village had a meeting headed by SHIVACHEV (fnu), the president of the village Soviet, and decided to stage a bomb attack during their next meeting, so as to put blame on the anti-Communists of the village, and get them jailed or otherwise liquidated. The meeting took place late at night on 15 June, and the Communists present were: SHIVACHEV (fnu), the president of the village; his brother SHIVACHEV Ivan; bordertroop lieutenant DIMOV Stoyan; DOBREV Stoyan; GORGIEV Mitju and militiaman RAYCHEV Kosta. NIKOV Ivan Petrov, a 53-year-old Communist, was also present at the meeting, but he refused to have anything to do with the planned attempt and left earlier in the evening.

At 2300 hours, a detonation was heard in the village followed by a few shots. Everybody rushed from the houses, but nothing was to be seen. Within an hour a truck-load of militia arrived from YAMBOL, arresting 11 villagers, among them NIKOV Ivan Petrov, who were accused of having attempted to blow up the town-hall. GARBACHEV Marko and his son MARKOV Pavel, who were returning from the nearby forest and knew absolutely nothing about the whole matter were also arrested. The militiamen took the prisoners to the YAMBOL city jail, where they were placed in small cells, and for 11 days no notice was taken of them. On the twelfth day their interrogations began under the supervision of 28-year-old (LNU) Gosho. After the interrogation, all the prisoners were released with the exception of NIKOV, who gave away the real story of the stages attempt. It was later learned in GULOVO that NIKOV had been tortured in prison, where he was bound to a stake while some wardens whipped him with leather thongs. Several of his teeth were knocked out, and finally he was deported to a concentration camp, probably "ISPERIH", near TUTRAKAN.

EVAL. COMMENT: UNCONFIRMED.