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BULGARIA

AGRICULTURE

Collectivization

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Expropriation

Liquidation of Private Enterprise

FINANCE

Taxes

Methodical Elimination Of A Rich Landowner

SOURCE ISTANBUL: Interview with a 55-year-old Turkish ethnic emigrant from TOLBUHIN.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1946 to 1951.

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"I owned a 500-decare farm, three kilometers from TOLBUHIN, on the TOLBUHIN-STALIN highway. In 1948, following the Agrarian Reform Law, 100 decares of my most fertile land were confiscated by a commission consisting of two Communist Party members and an agricultural 'expert.' Prior to that, in 1945, I was forced to pay as 'voluntary contribution' to the 'zaem' (State internal loan) 200,000 Leva. Then, in 1948, I was obliged to pay an additional tax of 600,000 Leva. This latter was called 'Ednokraten Danak' (Tax to be collected only once) and was aimed at the extermination of rich landowners. Two years later, in 1950, a new tax called 'Dohoden Danak Raskulatchvem' (Tax for expropriating the 'kulaks') was imposed on me and I had to pay 410,000 Leva. A year's crop of my farm could not possibly cover this tax; furthermore, a 25-ton 'nared' delivery quota was set for my farm by the government.

"On 10 September 1950, a militiaman (NU), a village Soviet official named (LNU) Georgi, a post office clerk (NU), a civilian clerk (NU) and a fireman (NU) came to my farm and told me that I had failed to deliver the established 'nared' for 35 tons of agricultural produce. I told them I had fulfilled my obligation to the State by giving my 'nared' of 25 tons which, after all, was the amount fixed by the government. They answered that my 'nared' had in the meantime been increased to 35 tons, and to prove it they produced an order of the village Soviet. I knew that that order was made up for the only purpose of antagonizing me and forcing me to resist them. This, of course, would be a good excuse for them to seize my farm.

"In vain I tried to explain that by giving the 25-ton 'nared' I had deprived myself and my family of the food we needed to live through the year. They would not listen to

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my explanation and insisted on my giving them the extra 10 tons. Unable to conform with their demands. I was forced to surrender my farm and forego farming."

EVAL. COMMENT: Matter corresponds with similar information but the cited case is UNCONFIRMED.

Facts