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EDUCATION
University

COMMUNIST-SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

The Role Of The D.S.N.M. At The "Stalin" Technical
University

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Turkish ethnic emigrant, former university student.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1951

More influential than the teaching staff and even the K.N.I.K. supervisory commission, is the sectional directorate of the D.S.N.M. which is in charge of the Polytechnic University. A staff composed of close to 100 administrators checks on teachers and students alike, and sends its reports not the K.N.I.K. or the Ministry of Education, but straight to the educational section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Students are divided into groups of 10 to 15, and each group has a D.S.N.M. controller who has to hand in daily reports on the behavior of the students, and their scholastic progress. These controllers are in charge of checking on absences, and students unable to offer a medical certificate are warned against "educational sabotage."

One of the main functions of the D.S.N.M. at the university is to allot the students locations for training. Every student has to work for six months during a period of nine semesters (four and a half years) practicing six weeks every summer for four consecutive summers. It is the duty of the D.S.N.M. directorate at the university to send the students to factories and state enterprises where they can practice. Non-Communist students are always sent to places with more hardships to endure and no logic is followed by the D.S.N.M. in placing the students. In 1949-50 a number of non-Communist civil engineers were sent to the DIMITROV coal mines for their period of training. Although some professors intervened, pointing out that there was no point in sending a civil engineer to a coal mine, the decision of the D.S.N.M. remained final as in all other similar cases.

During the summer vacation, the D.S.N.M. still checks on all the activities of the students. In September the local sections of the organization have to send a full report, to the Technical University's D.S.N.M. directorate stating

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what the student has been doing during his vacation. Every student is expected to participate in some kind of public work and join a "volunteer" brigade. Those students who refuse to serve a term in a brigade, usually find themselves in difficulties the following semester.

However, the D.S.N.M. does not only exert its power over the students; teachers are just as vulnerable. In 1950, two assistant-professors and one assistant were dismissed from the University because of complaints lodged against them by the D.S.N.M. The formality is carried out through the K.N.I.K., which "investigates" the report forwarded by the D.S.N.M. directorate. In reality, the K.N.I.K. never raises any objection to the decision of the D.S.N.M. and the formality of dismissing a teacher does not take more than five to ten days. The Ministry of Education automatically ratifies the joint decision of D.S.N.M. and K.N.I.K.

EVAL. COMMENT: In line with Communist policy.