

AH
5 January 1952
V/533

BULGARIA

COMMUNIST PARTY

Personalities

Inner life

Criticism

Deviationists

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 21-year-old Bulgarian escaped from a village near OREHOVO. He is a shoe-maker by profession and arrived in Turkey, on 16 August 1951.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1944 to 1951.

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KOSOSHKI Velko was one of the most active Communist guerrillas prior to 9 September 1944. He had spent many sleepless nights wrestling with plans for driving the Fascists out of power. He believed in Communist ideology and thought people would be happy when they reached the state of equality. His fight was over in 1944: The Communists had come to power in Bulgaria.

ROGOZEN village (near OREHOVO city,) where KOSOSHKI lived, was the first to form a T.K.Z.S. People had faith in KOSOSHKI and he was appointed director to the village kolkhoz. In 1948, in recognition of his services to the Communist Party, he was sent to the Soviet Union to increase his knowledge on collectivization. KOSOSHKI was an entirely different person when he came back to Bulgaria, a month later.

He seemed to have lost his energy and was silent most of the time. In the general T.K.Z.S. meeting that was held a few days after his arrival, Communist leaders, as usual, were in fiery argument over collecting the nared. KOSOSHKI was sitting in his chair, listening and smoking but not saying anything. He began speaking after one of the Communists asked him to straighten the situation. In a deep voice he answered, "I was in the USSR and I saw the Soviet Kolkhozes. The Soviet Union, which for so long had been my ideal, failed me. I witnessed people put to work like slaves. Children are encouraged to denounce their parents. Thousands of people are executed without a trial. Believe me, comrades, to see human beings treated like animals is not a pleasant sight for the eye, nor a comfort for the conscience. I do not wish to be used as a dirty instrument in the degradation of my own people to the same level. Please be kind enough to accept my resignation." The speech caused great excitement at the meeting and 150 resignations followed that of KOSOSHKI. He was arrested the same night and taken to the VRATSA prison. Communist authorities launched a determined effort to wipe out the rebellious attitude that seemed to possess him. But failing to do so they tried to smear him in the eyes of the public and accused him of having embezzled 18 million Levass.

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(cont'd)

KOSOSHKI, once one of the Communist bigwigs is now frequently seen in shabby clothes begging for food in the streets of ROGOZEN. His family of three lives on the salary of his wife, a school teacher, and on the charity of the villagers.

EVAL. COMMENT:

unconfirmed.