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Yugoslavs Elevate Feud with Bulgaria to Party Level

The Yugoslav party journal, Komunist, on 30 May expressed concern over the "harmful and completely superfluous campaign" about Macedonia in the Bulgarian press.

Komunist insists that the continued Bulgarian emphasis on a "Greater Bulgarian" interpretation of Macedonian history has "special political overtones." The party organ warned that Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations will remain clouded as long as Sofia persists in its "sad and dangerous nationalistic megalomania." Until now, the Tito regime generally has handled its renewed feud with Sofia on a government and popular newspaper level.

In a related development, the Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, on 24 May attacked Macedonian poet Venko Markovski as a turncoat in the service of advocates of a "Greater Bulgaria." Markovski has been living in Sofia since 1965. His speech at the recent Bulgarian writers' congress particularly upset Tanjug. In it Markovski resurrected the Bulgarian San Stefano claims to Macedonia and criticized nationalist and revisionist regimes which deviated from Marxism-Leninism.

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Yugoslav-European Common Market Discussions

Yugoslav Assistant Foreign Trade Secretary Petar Tomic will begin exploratory discussions with the EEC commission in Brussels on 3 June. The Yugoslavs have complained bitterly about the commission's proposal to lump Yugoslavia with the state trading countries in applying additional EEC import restrictions. The Yugoslavs deny, with justification, that theirs is a state trading system.

The EEC is Yugoslavia's main trading partner and further obstacles to Yugoslav exports will seriously hamper Tito's economic reform, already at a difficult stage. Heavy duties on meat and corn have led to a seven percent slump in Yugoslav exports to the Common Market. Demands for retaliation have appeared in the Belgrade press.

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Art Theft in Rumania

Several valuable Renaissance paintings have been stolen from the Bruchkenthal Museum in Sibiu, Rumania. Among the works taken were Van Dyke's "The Death of Cleopatra", Titian's "Ecce Home" and Andergast's "Portrait of a Man".

Authorities are going all out to solve the crime, and an appeal has been issued to all citizens to help the militia in tracking down the criminals. Since the market for such stolen goods is probably nonexistent in Rumania, the thieves undoubtedly plan to smuggle the paintings out of the country. If they succeed, Bucharest would no doubt find it extremely difficult ever to recover the works.

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Large Scale Civil Defense Exercise in Zagreb

A large scale civil defense exercise from 0300 to 1130 on 12 May was held in the southern Zaprudje district of Zagreb. Approximately 12,000 persons were evacuated to a "safe zone" south of the city while civil defense teams moved in to deal with the "casualties", and "destroyed" or "damaged" physical facilities in the wake of a mock nuclear attack.

Public reaction to the drill ranged from puzzlement to annoyance at being awakened at 3:00 A.M. on Sunday morning by wailing sirens. The local citizenry speculates that the drill reflects a desire by the military to justify current force levels and major outlays for new equipment by emphasizing the seriousness of the world situation.

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