

17 Feb 56

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**OPERATIONAL AND SOURCE COVER SHEET**

FROM: ITALY REPORT NO. OIR-18753

REPORT MADE BY: E J NO. PAGES: \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT APPROVED BY: E J NO. ENCLOSURES: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF REPORT: 17 February 1956 REFERENCES: E J

DISTRIBUTION:

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~~Source~~ Files : SHAM/SHANTUNG/ E J

SOURCE CRYPTONYM: E J ID NO. \_\_\_\_\_ IG NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
KRYPTON:  YES  NO

**SOURCE, OPERATIONAL DATA, AND COMMENTS:**

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Constantin PAPANAGE and the "MACEDONIA" Question.

Eval : B-2  
Date info : 8 February 1956  
Date acqd : 9 February 1956

1. In connection with Constantin PAPANAGE's difficulties with the Italian authorities concerning his participation in the publication of "MACEDONIA",   reports that there are other factors which should be examined in order to get a clearer background picture of the controversial issue.
2. The first factor is that of funds for the publication. According to Macedo-Roumanian refugees, the funds come from the Roumanian, Bulgarian and possibly even Albanian emigrants from Macedonia who are presently in the United States where they have become American citizens. It is not to be ruled out that even some Italian rightist circles have given, if not financial assistance, at least some aid towards its legal publication.
3. The second factor to examine is the purpose of the publication. "MACEDONIA" seems to have been set up for the purpose of exposing to the civilized world the inhuman, undemocratic treatment suffered by the Bulgarian, Roumanian and Albanian ethnic groups at the hands of the Governments of Greece and Jugoslavia. At the same time the publication carries on a propaganda program in favor of the creation of an independent state of Macedonia.

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From the point of view of Athens and Belgrade this activity constitutes an attack against the territorial integrity of their respective countries. This explains why the Greek and Yugoslav diplomatic representatives have protested to the Italian Government and have asked that all activity carried out by "MACEDONIA" be stopped.

4. It is probable that treatment of the Roumanian, Bulgarian, and Albanian minorities either in Greece or Yugoslavia is not equitable nor does it conform entirely to true democratic spirit. One should not be amazed if the minorities in question are unfairly treated in dictatorial Yugoslavia. But Greece cannot be explained away in the same fashion. During Mussolini's Fascist Regime, the Government of Italy had proclaimed itself the champion of revisionism: in Central Europe in favor of Hungary and against Czechoslovakia, Roumania, and, in lesser degree, against Yugoslavia; in the Balkans in favor of Bulgaria and against Greece. Bulgarian revisionism is still very active and the existence of Bulgarian minorities in Greece constitutes an excellent propaganda theme. On the other hand, the Communist regime of Sofia, while propagandising nationalistic themes, could easily avail itself of unwitting accomplices, informants and spies among the Bulgarian minority group in Greece.
5. As for the Roumanian who have even in the past complained of their treatment at the hands of the Greeks, their situation seems to have worsened following World War II. As a matter of fact when Mussolini's troops invaded Greece in 1941, the Macedo-Roumanians welcomed the Italians with open arms, whereas as Greek citizens they should have considered the Italians their enemy. This attitude of the Roumanians in Greece is explained away by the disregard of the rights of the ethnic minorities on the part of the Government of Athens.
6. The third factor to consider is why was Italy chosen as the publication headquarters of "MACEDONIA". It would seem that the idea of publishing the organ was initially Constantin PAPANACE's. It is also said that among the "Macedonian" refugees, PAPANACE is the most capable and the best prepared for the task. It is also pointed out that, with the exception of the Soviet Union, Italy is the one nation most directly interested in Balkan affairs.

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