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COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT Data on Belogradchik Okoliya

[Redacted]

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1. The Belogradchik Okoliya administration is located in the center of the town, at the lower side of the square in a new building built during 1943. The State Security is also located there.

2. The chairman of the Belogradchik Okoliya Peoples Soviet is Dafimski, [Redacted]

[Redacted] The chief of the State Security is Dimitrov from Orashtets, in Belogradchik Okoliya. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Ivan Pavin is an agent of the State Security in Belogradchik [Redacted]

[Redacted] "Lozan" (this is his nickname) is an agent of the State Security and lives in Belogradchik but his town of origin is not known. [Redacted] Aleksandur Petrov is the chairman of the Belogradchik urban Peoples Soviet. Ivan Dimov is a secretary of the Okoliya Committee of the Communist Party.

3. The chairman of the village of Rabisha Rural Peoples Soviet in Belogradchik Okoliya is Georgi Todarov Pankov. [Redacted]

[Redacted] tasks that are given to him such as having arms stored in his house. These arms include pistols, carbines, submachine guns, and one light or heavy machine gun, as well as hand grenades. Pavetko Ivanov Krustav is a former member of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union. [Redacted] The authorities wish to discharge him but cannot find a substitute. One cannot count on him to fight against the Communists. However, he does not treat the peasants badly. He comes from Rabisha, Belogradchik Okoliya. Stamen Petrov is a secretary and collector in the Rural Peoples Soviet. He was a collector before 1944 and is about 47 years old. He wished to join the Party but was not accepted, treats the peasants well and is a good person. Yordan Iliev is an official in the community. [Redacted] works for the Rural Peoples Soviet, is friendly with the Communists but himself is not a Communist and behaves very well.

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3. Before 1944 the Communist Party in Rabisha had only four members, but these are no longer members. After 1944 150 members were registered, but this number has now been lowered to 46 members. The reason for the decrease in membership is that some have left the Party, while others have been excluded. Dimitur Velkov is the secretary of the Party organization [redacted]

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[redacted] He has a third grade education and is a farmer. Weapons are stored in his house. He hands them to Boyni Grupi (Combat Groups), to Party members, and to DOSO members when these go into ambush near the border. He leaves an impression with the peasants of being a good man, but he is an informer and tells everything to the Chief of the Frontier Guard in the neighboring village, Rayanovtzi, also in Belogradchik Okoliya. The following are armed Communists and members of the Boyni Grupa (combat group): Petur Tsvetkov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Stefan Stoyanov, Stefan St. Trilunov, Mayden N. Mishkov, Stoyan Yankov, Ivan Yankov, Dimitur Petkov, Petur Mitkov, Kosta Petrov, Dimitur Markov, Stoyan Todorov, and Stancho Ponomov. This group of Communists participates actively in collecting the grain delivery quotas from the peasants, participates in arrests in the village, participates in secret night observations and defense of important military places, as well as in the persecuting of opposition members. Such groups are attached to all Party organizations in frontier places, they have their technical instructor, but are under the Party Secretary. The Party has meetings at least once a week, but these meetings are not attended even by the Communists. Much propaganda is made about the Soviet Union and the Red Army in frontier villages. All peasants up to 45 years of age are required to study Russian. Courses are given by the Bulgarian Soviet Friendship Society or by the Fatherland Front Committee and by the Party.

4. The cooperative labor farm in the village was formed by force during 1948. At first the Party obligated persons to join the cooperative labor farm, but later the private farmers or kulaks were deprived of their land. Of 400 farms, only 280 became members of the cooperative labor farms while the rest are still struggling against them. These private farmers who are struggling against the labor farm system are helped by members of the cooperative labor farm themselves, who are dissatisfied. The cooperative labor farm has very good land, but the production of crops is unsatisfactory. The equipment of the cooperative labor farm is gathered by or from the cooperative members themselves. In case of great need, agricultural machines are borrowed from the Machine Tractor Station in Aleksandrovo in Belogradchik Okoliya. This Machine Tractor Station has the following tractors: Stalinet, the British Fordson, the Swedish Muntel, and the US Deering. This Machine Tractor Station also furnishes thrashers.

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5. Nayden N. Mishkov was the chairman of the cooperative labor farm, is a member of the Communist Party, but is against the rough methods of the Party. As a result he was removed from the TKZS - the labor cooperative farm. [redacted] Petur Tsvetkov is now the chairman of the cooperative labor farm. He was designated to this post in 1951. At the time that he was made chairman almost all peasants who were cooperative members wished to resign. As a result of this Nayden Mishkov was discharged from the cooperative labor farm. [redacted] Stoyan Vasilev is the cashier and foreman of the cooperative labor farm. [redacted]

[redacted] Zhivtko Pechey from Salash, Belogradchik Okoliya, is a director of the Machine Tractor Station in Aleksandrovo, Belogradchik Okoliya. This Machine Tractor Station was formed in 1947 and equipment of the various peasants was put into it. Later on tractors and other agricultural machines were received from the USSR and Czechoslovakia. The Machine Tractor Station has thrashers of which 116 were taken away from private farmers. It has tractors, combines, and disc grain drills. There are insufficient machines in this area as the result of which the plans are not fulfilled. The resistance of workers and cooperative members is great because they know they are working for the USSR and their Bulgarian agents. The Credit Cooperative in Rabisha carries out bank operations, gives credits to the cooperative labor farms, and in rare cases to private farmers who are not members of the labor farms. The Cooperative has two consumer stores and

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includes a dairy which receives all the milk from the cooperative labor farms and from private farmers, as well as from shepherds in the locale. The Cooperative also includes a lime section for the preparation of lime for the construction of various frontier projects, as well as for building houses etc. The Cooperative also has a fishing section. Dimitur Ivanov Tunar is a director of the Cooperative. [redacted] completed accounting courses and performs at the same time duties of a cashier. Dimitur Stoyanov Iliev is accountant of the Cooperative. [redacted] is bookkeeper of the Cooperative. Georgi Ivanov Sabov

6. During 1950 the following peasants who were against the labor cooperative farm were imprisoned and are still jailed: Vulcho Stoyanov, [redacted] member of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, interned somewhere near Srednogrieto (Sredna Gora Mountains); Kosta Zulochev Stoyanov (the son of Vulcho Stoyanov) [redacted] and a member of the Zveno group, put into the Kutsiyan camp at the same time his father was imprisoned, but changed after one year and now his whereabouts are unknown; Todor Georgiev, [redacted] a teacher, imprisoned somewhere in the Sredna Gora Mountains; Pencho Kostov, imprisoned during 1951 and later his entire family was imprisoned in the village of Gloshevo, Kubrac /Sig/ Okoliya; Georgi Kostov imprisoned with his family during 1951 in the same village / Gloshevo / . Kosta Yankov and his family were imprisoned in the same village.
7. During 1952 and 1953 six other families were imprisoned because they had relatives who fled abroad. These families are in prison somewhere in the Rudogorie area of Dobruja.
8. The frontier is defended by the Frontier Guard, which is under the Ministry of Interior. The frontier is especially well defended in those areas where it is known that diversionaries pass or where underground and illegal persons are hiding. The frontier guard is supported by armed Communists, who together with the troops go into ambush or participate in combat groups. These combat groups persecute illegal entrants and diversionaries.
9. Military intelligence agents and agents from the State Security are located in border villages and along the border, as well as in Komandaturas and poduchastuks. These agents move about with motorcycles and are armed. They wear civilian clothing or golf or sport clothing with wind-breakers.
10. Members of the Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation are also used to strengthen the border posts, but mainly for night ambushes. Some of these are assigned to komandaturas, where they receive food and pay. The movements of persons in the border areas are controlled. Open papers (otkrit list) are issued by military authorities in zastavas and in poduchastuks, or by okoliya committees of the Party.
11. Military inspections are carried out near the border. They check on the border posts, as well as on the morale of the local population. Labor units which clean and maintain trenches, bunkers, and foxholes near the border are sent to this area. These units do not remain in one place, but move about.
12. Since February 1954 a calm has been noted on the entire length of the Bulgarian Yugoslav frontier. The Yugoslav Secret Service UDB has ordered the retreat of four diversionaries from the border and put them to work on various farms. No person has been noted to have crossed from Bulgaria into Yugoslavia during this period. However propaganda against the Yugoslav government has not diminished. Various delegations from Sofia are constantly arriving in Belgrade.

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