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SIA

COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT REPORTED SOVIET "SPRING PLAN" E A FREE
MACEDONIAN REPUBLIC COMPRISING PARTS OF
HOW BULGARIA NEAR THE GREEK-YUGOSLAV BORDER
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During the period 16 February - 16 March 1950, available monitored broadcasts from Soviet, Satellite, Yugoslav, Greek, and Turkish transmitters include few and generally peripheral references to the Macedonian question.

"The Slav Plan to Create a Macedonian State"

An Athens broadcast of 9 March claims that there has been "a definite advance in the general Slav plan to create an independent Macedonian state," extending into Vardar and Aegean Macedonia, "within the framework of a Balkan Federation." Bulgaria's Premier Chervenkov is said to be the originator of this plan which "would first make Monastir (Bitolj) and later Salonika the capital of a Macedonian State with its southern front on the river Aliakmon." The broadcast claims that Chervenkov is utilizing the KOEM which poses as the "Communist organization for Aegean Macedonia," but which in fact "is a Bulgarian organization."

A 28 February broadcast by the clandestine Yugoslav Radio Sava reports, under a Vienna dateline, that "a great guerrilla action is being prepared against Yugoslav and Greek Macedonia." It is said that there are daily infiltrations of plain-clothed Soviet units into Bulgaria, and that these units "are being sent to the Bulgarian border. There are a great number of armored cars in Varna, and they are also increasing their air force. In some months, the Soviets will have about 1,000 planes in Bulgaria."

Terror and Denationalization in Pirin Macedonia

On the other hand, there are a few reports to the effect that Bulgaria is pursuing a policy of denationalizing Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia. Belgrade's TANYUG news service reports on 14 March that Macedonian bookshops have been closed down, and that "the Bulgarian Foreign Minister has begun asserting that an anti-Bulgarian policy is being carried out in the (Yugoslav) People's Republic of Macedonia in order to justify the denationalization policy in the part of Macedonia under Bulgarian rule."

On 22 February, Radio Sofia, criticizing a "series of weaknesses... in the Party organization" in Pirin Macedonia, claims that although several bands of terrorists have been discovered and disarmed and some cases of Kostovism exposed, the Party's "vigilance has not come up to expectations." Because Pirin Macedonia "borders on the frontiers of the imperialist powers--the Titoites and the Greek monarcho-fascists"--and because it "is a trench facing enemy positions,... Bolshevik habits must be developed,... greater efforts must be exerted towards building Socialism," and greater vigilance is required. Sofia does say, however, that "the victory of Socialism is the only way to realize the ideals of the Macedonian Nation and to guarantee its unification."

On 28 February, Radio Sava claims that Macedonian nationalists in Pirin Macedonia "have become active and have performed a large number of railway sabotage acts."

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