

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT**

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National Organization

1. DOSO (Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeystvie na Otbranata; Voluntary Organization for Defense Assistance) was officially established in 1951, following the meeting of the DOSO National Congress and the approval of its statute by the government. The DOSO, headed by General Todor Toshev, is controlled directly by the Ministry of Defense and receives considerable financial support, arms, general supplies, facilities, and military instructors from the Army.
 2. The DOSO has the following central organs:
 - a. The National Congress, which convenes every two years, is charged with surveying the organization's activities for the past two years and issues directives for the future; it is however, only a formal gathering for propaganda purposes.
 - b. The Central Committee, the actual executive organ, convenes in plenary meetings twice yearly, but these meetings are unimportant because the departments execute the actual work. It receives its orders from a special department of the Ministry of Defense which works in cooperation with a parallel department of the Party Central Committee. The Committee has departments for organization, propaganda, training and sports, and finance and equipment.
 - c. The Central Control Commission.
- The regional organization of DOSO is identical in structure to the central organization.
3. Small DOSO units (cells) operate in each factory, institution, collective farm, tractor station, and school in towns and villages. Large towns and

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cities are divided into sectors, each sector with one or more cells. The minimum requirement for a cell is five members. Cells which have five to 15 members are headed by a chairman, usually an Army reservist, and a secretary, while larger cells elect a committee. Members of a cell must keep in close touch with each other and must know the address of all other members of the same cell. The cell operates under instruction from the town or sub-district DOSO Central Committee.

Membership

4. Total membership in the DOSO is approximately 900,000. Every Bulgarian over 14 years of age may join the DOSO. Although membership is entirely voluntary, the many privileges which members enjoy have a great appeal and influence over the masses. A candidate is admitted as a full member after a probationary period of one year, during which his social background, reliability, and performance are checked. Attendance at all DOSO-organized lectures, training, and "special actions" is compulsory. DOSO members receive priority in admission to universities, special colleges, and elite military units.
5. Admission fee to DOSO is 1.60 leva, and monthly membership dues are 0.80 leva. Students pay monthly membership dues of 0.40 leva.

Aims and Activities

6. The principal object of DOSO is to make available military training and the necessary knowledge of passive air defense to the civilian population. Its training program is concentrated on firing exercises, passive air defense, and communications:
 - a. DOSO has 36 rifle stations scattered through Bulgaria. Trainees are sent to the stations in groups of eight to 12 and receive their rifles on their way to the exercises. Service rifles (7.92 mm. German rifles) are used for rifle drill, but smaller caliber rifles are used in the actual firing exercises. The course lasts six months, five hours per week, and those who distinguish themselves are sent to a snipers' course, which lasts two months, five hours per week. The snipers' course is given to small groups of not over 16 trainees, and each group receives an additional rifle fitted with a telescopic sight. Graduates of the snipers' course received a badge and a "diploma."
 - b. Courses in passive air defense against air attacks and gas attacks, are held both for members and non-members. Attendance is compulsory for those non-members who are instructed to take the courses. The course usually begins in October and lasts six months, one lecture of two and one-half hours per week. Principal subjects taught are defense against gas poisoning, first-aid, and fire-fighting.
 - c. Elementary communication courses are held in schools. Advanced courses are held in Army barracks. Principal subjects are semaphore, heliograph, telephone, and radio. Classes are organized in every school, factory, and institution and are limited to DOSO members.
7. Other courses organized by DOSO include flying, parachuting, truck and tractor driving, sailing, marine engineering, and sanitation. Instructors in all courses except truck and tractor driving are officers and non-commissioned officers of the regular Army. Courses are held in military barracks and installations.
 - a. Only a limited number of DOSO members are accepted for training in parachuting, and only a small number seek admission to these courses.


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Those who do volunteer are considered "crazy" by their fellow members. Approximately 50 Sofia youths, including 10 girls, were reported to have participated in the course in 1953. Training takes place during the summer vacations, and trainees participate in other sports during the school year. It is believed that the parachute training is given at Pleven.

- b. Courses in truck and tractor driving are made available by DOSO in every town. Graduates of the course are tested by DOSO instructors before they are allowed to take the official driving test for a drivers' license.
 - c. Sanitation courses last from three to four months, one 3-hour lecture per week. Graduates receive the GSO (Gotov za Sanitarna Otbrana; Ready for Sanitary Defense) badge.
 - d. Courses in other subjects and sports, excursions, summer camps, and contests between regional DOSO branches are organized yearly.
8. The Patriot is the official DOSO publication, but supplemental information bulletins on military subjects and regular propaganda material are circulated among DOSO.
9. Efforts are being made to develop a degree of alertness to internal security matters in DOSO members. Lectures are held about enemy acts of sabotage and the way to fight them, and books on such subjects are distributed to DOSO branches. DOSO members are often detailed to assist the Army and police in keeping order during mass festivities, fighting fires and collecting anti-regime leaflets dropped from aircraft. DOSO cells are providing organized and disciplined units of the civilian population for both political and defense purposes. DOSO members are constantly reminded that the DOSO cell is a unit prepared to combat the enemy in peacetime by supplying information and preventing enemy espionage and in war time by reinforcing the fighting forces, by passive air defense, and by carrying on the fight behind the enemy lines.

 Comment: A report, dated 15 January 1954, stated that General Toshev was to be made second in command under Dobri Terpeshev of DOSO. Another report, dated May 1954, reported that Toshev was now Inspector of a Cavalry Division. A newspaper article, 3 June 1954, reported Teolo Krustev as president of DOSO.

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