

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
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1. An important trial against persons accused of having participated in suppressing the Communist revolt of September 1923 took place recently in the Palace of Justice in Sofia. Among the accused was retired General Georgi Vilkov, 72 years old.
2. The trial was carried out in public in a room to which access could only be had by special permit granted only to persons who were absolutely politically trustworthy. The trial closed with 12 persons sentenced and one dismissed. Seven of the sentences were for capital punishment. Propaganda was not made of the trial in the Bulgarian press. It is possible that further trials may be carried out to eliminate from the political scene personalities in view.
3. The following men were condemned to death:
 - a. General Vulkov, Minister of War in 1923;
 - b. A certain Captain Zvetko Nikolov;
 - c. Two men who were police officers in 1923; and
 - d. Three other unidentified defendants.
4. The sentences were not carried out, however. It appears that the Presidium of the National Assembly decided to commute the capital punishments to a 20-year prison term which, because of the age of the defendants, is equivalent to life imprisonment. This commutation may lead to the belief that the Bulgarian authorities are trying to obtain from the accused further revelations which may give them motive for further trials against personalities other than those revealed by the defendants during the trial mentioned above. Five of the accused were given very severe sentences.

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