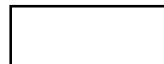


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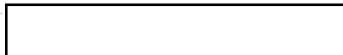
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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT



CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia
SUBJECT IMRO and Cominform
Activity in Macedonia

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1. Since about March 1952, Tito has been toning down the propaganda for a Greater Macedonian Republic within a Yugoslav Federation. The recent suspension of the propaganda journal "Voice of the Aegean" is only one sign of this new attitude. The influence of the United States is believed to have a good deal to do with this. Tito has noted American suggestions of the desirability of a rapprochement with Greece, which was impossible so long as it was proposed to include much Greek territory in the new Macedonian Republic.
2. The Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (IMRO - Vufreshna Makedonska Revolutsionna Organizatsiya; VMRO) has not, however, given up its old dream of an independent Macedonia. The struggle for this is directed by the old leaders and organizers. Tito is now considered a traitor and a movement against his regime is being organized in Yugoslav Macedonia.
3. In the past individuals whom IMRO regarded as traitors or otherwise undesirable or hostile were assassinated. IMRO, however, has always asserted that it never took this step until after a fair trial (for obvious reasons held with the defendant in absentia), condemnation, and a warning to the proposed victims to change their ways. The problem of ensuring Tito's safety will greatly increase if the skilled IMRO assassins add their efforts to those of others who wish to eliminate him.
4. While nothing is known of relations between IMRO and the Cominform, the latter is still working against Tito in Macedonia. Radio Moscow and Radio Sofia continue their special broadcasts in the Macedonian "language," a dialect half Bulgar and half Serb. Most Bulgar-Yugoslav frontier incidents take place on Macedonian territory.¹ The Cominform and IMRO agents in Macedonia have hitherto opposed each other. Now the Cominform is trying to gain IMRO sympathy and may to some extent be succeeding.
5. It is difficult to understand fully just what is now going on in Macedonia under these conditions. Panko Brachnarov, not a Communist, is now in prison. Pavel Chatev,

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[redacted]

well known IMRO leader and former associate of Tito, died in prison. Bane Andrejev, one of the best known figures in the Tito regime in Macedonia, has disappeared.² He is said to have been interned in his own village. Metodi Tohento, former President of the Praesidium of the Macedonian Popular Assembly at Skoplje, has been arrested on charges of planning to escape to Greece. He is under house arrest in his own home at Prilep. Bogoje Fotev, second President of the same Praesidium, tried to commit suicide, did not succeed, and is now interned. The third President, Vidoje Smilevski, has been sent to Belgrade. He is a friend of Tito's.

- 25X1 1. [redacted] Comment: Probably due to the Bulgar practice of placing their guards right on the border while the Yugoslavs station their guards some distance inside the line.
- 25X1 2. [redacted] Comment: Andrejev was formerly the leading member of the provincial committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party in Macedonia, and formerly Minister of Mines and of Hydro Economy. His Party career began in 1926. In 1929 he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for adherence to IMRO. In 1945 he accompanied Tito to Moscow. In 1946 he was active in the Yugoslav-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of the Yugoslav-Soviet Society for Cultural Collaboration.

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