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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE-2

13 November 1953

FROM: SE-2/CE

SUBJECT: Ivan DOCHEV

1. Reference is made to your contemplated request for POC on Ivan DOCHEV, Bulgarian emigre now in Canada. Although the information which follows is not in all cases necessarily derogatory it would seem to have definite bearing on any possible contact with him in the future.

2. MGSA-3455 dated 20 March 1951 deals chiefly with Ivan Panov ROGOSAROV but also contains biographical data obtained by CIC from DOCHEV which indicates that he attended the University of Sofia from 1932 to 1937 and during this period founded the "Bulgarian National Legion". A CIC report dated October 1948 lists DOCHEV among ROGOSAROV's known associates and contacts. The latter was employed from 1947 to 1948 by CIC but was terminated when he was found guilty of fabricating many reports. The covering dispatch of MGSA-3455 stated that, according to French IS, ROGOSAROV was (as of 1951) suspected of working for Soviet intelligence although he pretended to work for the French and to have formerly worked for "Anglo-American services".

3. Sources do not agree entirely on DOCHEV's background but there is sufficient evidence in the files to indicate that he was definitely pro-German and that he worked for German IS. According to Who's Who in Bulgaria (1944), DOCHEV, formerly head of the Legioneri, was then chief of the Department of Oral and Practical Propaganda at the National Propaganda Directorate. A list of Bulgarian Nazis reported to be in Austria and Germany in August 1945 (source unidentified) includes the name of DOCHEV, "former Fascist youth leader and organizer of Nazi students even before the war." Some of the references reported below confirm DOCHEV's collaboration with the Germans during the period of occupation, his escape from Bulgaria with the retreat of the Germans, and his association with the pro-German government-in-exile which was set up in Vienna under the leadership of the extreme rightist, Alexander TSANKOV.

4. According to PGA-4677 dated 27 January 1950 (B-3), DOCHEV was the former leader of "Bulgarski Legioni" whose members were generally designated by the term "Legioneri". The organization was the Bulgarian counterpart of the Hitler Youth movement and was said to have been sponsored financially and ideologically by the Germans. DOCHEV left Bulgaria in 1944 with the retreating Germans and "exerted his influence in conscripting Bulgarian students located in Austria and Germany to fight against the Allies in conjunction with the policy of Alexander TSANKOV's government-in-exile. In the postwar period DOCHEV's activities have been confined to organizing some former Legionaires into a so-called 'Bulgarian National Anti-Communist Committee' in an attempt to capitalize on prevailing anti-Russian feeling. He is assumed to be in contact with Alexander TSANKOV....".

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5. PIM-182Q reported information acquired 25 April 1950 from [] (B-3) which indicated that Nikola TOSHKOV, alleged Bulgarian agent, traveled from Italy to Munich in June 1948 to visit his brother and "from Munich he went to Monaco" [field comment states this may be either Italian for Munich or reference to principality of Monaco] where he met Ivan DOCHEV who had offered his services to Colonel Stoyan ZAIMOV, key Bulgarian intelligence figure in Italy. The Rome comment, prepared by [], identified DOCHEV as "a paper-mill personality in Austria". In November 1950 [] (B-3) in PIRA-7871 reported similar information, and the Italian desk confirms the possibility that the two reports originated with the same initial source since [] is actually a sub-station of []. The latter report stated that DOCHEV offered in 1947-48 to collaborate with George M. DIMITROV but received no reply and then offered his services to Colonel ZAIMOV, whereupon TOSHKOV was dispatched to meet DOCHEV in Munich. [] in PIRA-3224 commented on the report that DOCHEV has offered his services to ZAIMOV by outlining in brief DOCHEV's past activities with the Legion, the Nazis, and the Bulgarian government-in-exile in Vienna. He concluded: "A person who knows him defined him as a fickle character who avails himself to any ideas of working for the Communists as in the past he worked for the Nazis...". The report bears a RS evaluation which under the circumstances may be rather high in light of []'s identity. In connection with the [] reports, it is entirely possible that some of DOCHEV's opponents engaged in the old game of character assassination with which the majority of emigres seem to be familiar, but there is nothing in the files which specifically states that DOCHEV did not seek contact with ZAIMOV.

6. PBSA-216 dated 28 October 1948 contains a statement made by George M. DIMITROV about DOCHEV. He declared that DOCHEV was the "former leader of a Fascist youth organization which was taken over by General LUKOV to swell the ranks of the Hitlerite brigades in Bulgaria" and that he had been placed by the former regime at the head of a "government-sponsored attempt to undermine the influence of the Agrarian Union among the peasants which it formally dissolved". DIMITROV stated that DOCHEV "now [1948] is misrepresenting his past activities and claims to have been an Agrarian leader." He characterized DOCHEV as being "entirely devoid of scruples" and claimed that "reliable information stamps him as attempting to act as communist agent-provocateur." As a bitter political foe of DOCHEV it is to be expected that DIMITROV would have few kind words for him. At the same time his statement is interesting in terms of the claims which DOCHEV made on his application for emigration. Under "former occupations" he listed the following: lawyer in Sofia, 1938-41; mayor of Silistra, 1941-43; secretary general of Bulgarian Agrarian Association, 1943-44; and under "political affiliations": Bulgarian Anti-Communist Legion, 1930-37; "no party member", 1937-42; secretary general of Bulgarian Agrarian Association, 1942-44. There are perhaps two other references in the files to DOCHEV as an Agrarian leader but it appears likely that the information originated with DOCHEV. All other evidence known to the writer suggests that DOCHEV was and is opposed to the Agrarians.

7. MGKW-8142 dated 13 March 1951 reported further comments made by DIMITROV concerning DOCHEV as follows: "Dr. DIMITROV stated that Ivan DOCHEV, the former Deputy Minister of Propaganda in the TSANKOV cabinet who spoke over Radio Donau for the Nazis, was active in connection

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with ZIPPER and, according to the last word that DIMITROV had received, DOCHEV was still receiving funds from the American Intelligence headquarters near Munich. DIMITROV offered to produce documentary proof that DOCHEV has been claiming among the Bulgarian emigres whom he has been trying to recruit that he enjoys the full blessing of the American authorities and that the latter back him completely." DIMITROV also stated that he and Dragomir NENOV (see paragraph 5 above) knew that DOCHEV "was still presumably an American agent and that he was in contact with General [sic: Colonel] ZAIMOV who allegedly runs Bulgarian intelligence activities in Western Europe."

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8. DOCHEV's application for emigration also indicated that he worked for CIC Munich and CIC Salsburg from May 1946 until the end of 1947 and for ZIPPER from the beginning of 1948 to the time of application, apparently about April 1950. Attention is also called to the fact that he listed as sponsors Bishop Andre VELIKOV and Boris H. D. CLARK, who are well known to you. MGLA-1971 dated 15 May 1950 stated that his emigration was approved by CIC Salsburg as a result of "our" intervention but was then disapproved by the DP Commission without reason. The field thought that he may have been turned down because of his previous connections with the Legion and with the government-in-exile in Vienna. OUT-66661 WASH 5912 on 29 May 1950 advised the field that further intervention in the case of DOCHEV was not warranted and that the "record of his activities as presently known does not justify any assistance whatsoever." It was followed up by MOKW-5166 dated 12 June which suggested that emigration of ZIPPER members should be facilitated "only when there is sufficient evidence of meritorious service" and advised against any falsification of his documents on the grounds that his true identity would more than likely become known if he did gain entry to the United States. MGLA-3409 dated 19 September 1950 states that the field agreed in principle with headquarters views concerning DOCHEV and that fact, coupled with the generally low level of Bulgarian operations, had led them to tell ZIPPER that no further assistance could be given to DOCHEV in emigrating to the United States and to suggest that he accept emigration to another country.

9. A State memorandum dated 21 November 1951 reads in part as follows: "...DOCHEV's former organization, the Legion (Legionaires) was a Nazi organization which presumably comes under the terms of the McCarran Act. It is believed that DOCHEV was recently refused a visa to visit the United States. In Germany he was reported to be a disrupting element among Bulgarian emigres."

10. MSBA-3361 contains a report made by [] on 27 July 1950 concerning a trip he had recently made to Frankfurt where he had run into Atanas ZAMFIROV, a businessman who said that a German residence permit could be arranged through DOCHEV. OUT-66318 WASH 14413 advised [] that DOCHEV, "not considered trustworthy", probably could secure a residence permit for [] only through the influence of ZIPPER and suggested that [] instruct [] not to discuss the permit with DOCHEV in order to avoid arousing possible ZIPPER interest in []. The name of Atanas ZAMFIROV will be familiar to you because he had been the subject of discussion with the Swiss desk and has recently come to the United States.

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11. In an attempt to obtain more information concerning DOCHEV's activities with ZIPPER, particularly since there is no lower an officer at the ZIPPER desk directly familiar with the case, file [] covering "Project 79" was reviewed. As a ZIPPER agent DOCHEV recruited two Bulgarians who were dispatched from Austria to Bulgaria in October 1949 and were presumably broken by the Bulgarian IS. DOCHEV's true identity was known to the agents and this compromise appears to have led to his emigration. In the spring of 1950 when an approach, apparently by the Bulgarian IS, was made to the wife (in Salzburg) of one of the agents, DOCHEV's handling of the situation was regarded as "inept" and both headquarters and the field were critical of his readiness to call in CIC. MGKW-5450 dated 11 July 1950 stated that "it may be desirable at times to request CIC intervention but naturally only the POB American staff and if necessary Washington can clear such action..." According to MGIA-2875 dated 4 August 1950, the project was to be dropped after CE investigation but the results of this investigation are not included in the file.

12. Another individual involved in "Project 79" was one Anatoli CANOFF [sic: Anatoli TSANOV] who lived in Vienna and is almost certainly identical with the Anatoli TSANOV of SGAA-1296 dated 7 November 1952. The latter dispatch is chiefly concerned with the allegation contained in a CIC report dated July 1947 that Todor DAMYANOV once worked for French IS but it contains certain statements which appear pertinent. DAMYANOV stated that it is possible that a denunciation to the effect that he had worked for the French DRA had been made against him in 1947 by Anatoli TSANOV, with whom DAMYANOV had personal and political clashes. DAMYANOV reminded WRONG that he had reported to WRONG and S/A MEITNER in 1948 that Anatoli TSANOV was a double agent working for the French DRA and the Bulgarian Legation in Vienna and that TSANOV also was passing information to the 430th CIC Det. USFA through Ivan DOCHEV, with whom TSANOV pretended to be politically associated. DAMYANOV claimed that TSANOV had later returned to Vienna, where he lived undisturbed by the Bulgarian and Russian security agencies. Athens reasoned that the CIC report on DAMYANOV was probably furnished by DOCHEV who had received it from TSANOV. SGAA-1296 also contains ADDISSETT's unfavorable comments on TSANOV, including his "impression that TSANOV was a Bulgarian agent who acted as an informant for the French in order to be tolerated in the area" ADDISSETT explained that TSANOV lived in Innsbruck for a time before returning to Vienna. SGAA-1296 continues: [] recalls hearing from S/A Kurt MEITNER that Anatoli TSANOV had married a relative of Ivan DOCHEV in Vienna and now lived in Vienna as both a trusted man of DOCHEV and as informant of the Bulgarian Consulate/Legation. In []'s opinion this allegation seemed to be borne out by the nature of questions asked by a Bulgarian case officer relative to []'s whereabouts which suggested that DOCHEV had reported two encounters with [] to TSANOV who in turn had passed the information to the Bulgarian Legation in Vienna.

13. The question of DOCHEV's present IS connections in terms of his previous association with German IS has been discussed with the ZIPPER desk. They have no current information concerning DOCHEV and are unable to make a positive statement relative to his possible ties either now or in the future with German IS but they believe his previous service with the German IS is a factor to be kept in mind at all times.

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