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17 March 1960

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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(17-23 December 1959)

No. 54

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U. S. JOINT PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH SERVICE
205 EAST 42nd STREET, SUITE 300
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

19980109 210

F O R E W O R D

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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(17-23 December 1959)

Preface

The present summary is a report on the economic, political, military and sociological activities and developments in Bulgaria, covering all available newspapers of the Bulgarian provincial press from 17-23 December 1959. All items, whether summaries, condensations or partial translations reflect the specific and contextual meaning of the original text.

During this week all newspapers carry the appeal by the CC of the BCP to the Bulgarian population in connection with the forthcoming year, 1960. Several newspapers carry long articles commemorating the 80th anniversary of Joseph Stalin's birthday, as well as numerous year-end reports on plan fulfillments. Conferences on violations of the law are reported for all okrugs.

Appendix A of this summary lists graphic illustrations.

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LIST OF SOURCES

Chernomorski Front

Dimitrovgradska Pravda

Kolarovgradska Borba

Septemvriyska Pobeda

Otechestven Glas

Dunavska Pravda

Sofiyska Pravda

Septemvri

Narodno Delo

I. ECONOMIC

A. Manufacturing Industries

A 1,000 ton river barge was launched on 18 December 1959 at the "Georgi Dimitrov" Shipbuilding and Repair Yards, (KKZ "Georgi Dimitrov"). This was the 13th barge constructed in 1959 in the 1,000 ton series. It is to be delivered to the USSR. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 19 December 1959, page 1)

B. Chemical Industry

On 16 December 1959, the "Stalin" Chemical Combine (Khimicheski kombinat "Stalin") in Dimitrovgrad fulfilled its annual plan for the production of carbamide. The plant produced 2,840 ton of this substance, and before the end of the year will produce an additional 150 ton. (Dimitrovgradska Pravda, Dimitrovgrad, 17 December 1959, page 1)

The state enterprise for oil processing in Ruse has undertaken to produce asphalt, and in 1959 supplied 50% of the country's requirements for that product.

The "Gavril Genov" State Chemical Plant (DKhZ "Gavril Genov") has successfully produced certain types of waterproof dyes for leather, nitroglyphtol glue for use in the shipbuilding industry, electric insulation varnish, etc. The "Petur Karaminchev" State Industrial Enterprise (DIP "Petur Karaminchev") is manufacturing polyethylene tubing for use in agricultural and construction work. It has also begun the production of imitation leather from plastic materials, and is producing foam rubber. Between 1960 and 1965, the "Gavril Genov" State Chemical Combine will master the production of 35 further types of goods, including rozins and varnishes for the electrical industry, emulsion dyes, chemically resistant lacquers, silicon lacquers, etc. In 1959, chemical enterprises in Ruse Okrug produced 208,000,000 leva in production. This represents 13% of the over-all production for the okrug for the year. A total of 170 workers were employed in this capacity, and the figure is expected to reach 350 in 1965. (Dunavska Pravda, Ruse, 23 December 1959, page 3)

C. Non-Ferrous Metallurgy

In 1958, Bulgaria produced 26,070 ton of lead. In the first nine months of 1959, this production was almost equalled. The per capita production in 1958 was 3.4 kg of lead, 1.1 kg of zinc, and 0.1 kg of copper. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Plevan, 22 December 1959, page 1)

D. Fuels and Power

The briquette factory which utilizes lignite coal and is a part of the gigantic "Maritsa-Iztok" Thermolectric Power Plant (TEPs "Maritsa-Iztok") is the first factory of its sort in Bulgaria. The coal mined in the East Maritsa Basin can be briquetted without binding agents, and this provides a great economic advantage. This factory is to be constructed in three stages, and will be one of the most modern Bulgarian plants. It will be equipped with the most modern equipment from the German Democratic Republic, and will cover an area of 480 decares. The first stage, which will provide a production capacity of 1,800 ton per day, should be completed by the beginning of 1961. The subsequent stages will be finished by the end of 1964. At that point the factory will have a production capacity of 5,400 ton daily.

The briquettes to be produced here will be of a higher quality than those produced from Dimitrovo coal.

For one ton of briquettes, 2.5 ton of raw lignite coal will be required. It will be mined at the "Troyanovo-I" Mine, and will be automatically loaded on flat cars. The unloading of an entire trainload will require about eight minutes. Briquetting will be done by means of 48 presses under a pressure of 1,200 atm each. Three hundred freight cars of briquettes will be loaded daily at the factory for shipment. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 18 December 1959, page 3)

In 1960 the "Electric Supply" State Enterprise in Plovdiv will provide electrical energy to industrial premises and residential buildings in the northern part of Plovdiv by means of a 20,000 volt substation. A new substation will also go into operation soon in Levskigrad and will supply electrical energy for the enterprises there. The "Northern Rhodope" Substation is shortly to be completed. It will supply energy for enterprises located along the northern slopes of the Rhodope Mountains. Two further substations are planned -- one will supply power for the proposed Lead and Zinc Combine, and the other, in the Plovdiv substation region, will supply electricity for the Sofia-Plovdiv electric railroad line which is at present under construction. An installation for the regeneration of transformer lubricants is to be completed by the end of 1959. (Otechestven Glas, Plovdiv, 20 December 1959, page 1)

E. Consumer Goods, Food Industry and Domestic Trade

The "Progres" Industrial Combine (Promkombinat "Progres") in Plovdiv has produced the first X-ray detectoscope made in Bulgaria. This is an X-ray apparatus which aids in determining if new shoes are a proper fit for the customer (used especially in outfitting children). The machine weighs 120 kg, and takes a 10 second exposure, and will not operate again for 60 seconds. This minimizes wear on the tubes. This machine is being manufactured with exclusively Bulgarian raw materials. (Otechestven Glas, Plovdiv, 18 December 1959, page 1)

The vegetable oil production for consumer and industrial purposes in Pleven Okrug is being handled by the "Kosta Zlatarev" State Chemical Combine (DKhK "Kosta Zlatarev") in Dolna Mitropoliya village and the "Zvezda" State Industrial Enterprise (DIP "Zvezda") in the city of Pleven. All extraction processes in the former are mechanized. The development of agriculture in the okrug will necessitate an increase in the processing capacity of these enterprises to 100 ton of sunflower seed per 24 hours. There should be two duo or super-duo-expressor presses, with a capacity of 50 ton per 24 hours each, producing an oil content of 3.5%. The refinery should have four centrifugal "Alfa-laval" type machines for the processing of neutral oils, and an installation for refrigeration. The "Zvezda" State Industrial Enterprise in Pleven is one of three such enterprises in Bulgaria which process cottonseed oil. This enterprise is now studying the production of oil from industrial rejects, the extraction of tannic acid from grape seeds, and the production of amino acids from grape refuse. This enterprise is supplied with cottonseed by Pleven, Vratsa, Vidin, Blagoevgrad and Stara Zagora Okrugs by rail. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Pleven, 17 December 1959, page 2)

On 13 December 1959, work was begun in the new sugar processing plant near Lom. This plant will process sugar beets grown on the cooperative farms in Mikhaylovgrad, Vidin, and Vratsa Okrugs. The workers at the plant have pledged themselves to produce 28,000 ton of sugar in 1960. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Pleven, 17 December 1959, page 1)

Freighters docking recently at Varna port include: the Bulgarian freighter "Khristo Smirnenski," bringing 2,708 ton of goods, including 200 ton of raw rubber, 400 ton of cotton, and 208 ton of sodium sulphide from the Near East, and 1,800 ton of equipment for new plants, including the "Maritsa Iztok" Thermoelectric Power Plant, from Odessa: the Soviet freighter "Ivan Sechenov," bringing 5,669 ton of ore. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 20 December 1959, page 1)

F. Transportation and Communications

A new port has been constructed at Chernomorets village, which was formerly known as Sveti Nikola village. It has a 45 meter breakwater, where the depth is 6 meters. The new port offers great opportunities for coastal navigation vessels and will make it possible for passenger ships to make stops at this village. It will also provide shelter or fishing and other craft in case of storms. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 20 December 1959, page 2)

The following construction projects are planned for the city and okrug of Varna for 1960:

The "Purvi May" Textile Combine (Tekstilen kombinat "Purvi may") is to be expanded, as will the "Elprom" Electrical Heating Appliance Factory (Fabrika "Elprom"). The "Ya. Kostov" Canning Combine (Konserven kombinat "Ya. Kostov") is to be completed. There will be 600 new apartment buildings constructed.

During 1960, the construction of a new air terminal with extended runways is to be begun. These facilities will make it possible to handle planes of the "TU-114" type. A second railroad track is to be constructed along the Sindel-Varna railroad line. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 22 December 1959, page 1)

II. THE GOVERNMENT

A. Labor Safety

Serious shortcomings have been permitted in regard to labor safety in various enterprises. The result of this laxness on the part of economic executives, trade union and health officials has been, in some enterprises, accidents and an illness ratio, which, rather than decreasing, has unjustifiably increased. Collective labor contracts signed by many enterprises include measures intended to remedy existing weaknesses in labor safety, but the funds provided for this purpose are not being utilized. The failure to implement these labor safety clauses cannot be classified except as an evidence of bureaucracy, carelessness and indifference on the part of certain Bulgarian administrative and trade union executives. Another cause of illness and accidents is the poor organization of work methods, which is inevitably accompanied by overtime. The managers of numerous enterprises employ persons whom they know have just completed eight hours' labor at another enterprise. When will these executives learn that the working day in Bulgaria is eight hours?

Many economic leaders do not concern themselves with the conditions under which production plans are fulfilled. They fail to search out those who are responsible for accidents which occur. "Trade union groups and organizations for this unfortunate condition in labor safety." Many trade union organizations fail to investigate accidents at work and to take any measures to reduce their number. Rather than preventing the violation of the labor safety code, the People's Court in Ruse condones it. There has not been a single prosecution against an administrative leader known to have violated government instructions on labor safety. (Dunavska Pravda, Ruse, 23 December 1959, page 1)

B. Law Observance

On 18 December 1959, the Varna Okrug People's Soviet held a special session on the observance of law, public order, and state discipline. Okrug Prosecutor N. Tersivanov made a report stressing that the commonest official crime is that committed by workers and administrators in the transportation services. One of the most dangerous infringements upon socialist property is the acquisition of goods by okrug officials for their own use. Out of a total of 4,315 officials investigated, 111 were found guilty of misdemeanors. Most of these have been cases in commercial organizations in which there has been improper accounting. "One of the most broadly disseminated forms of misuse is the misappropriation of surplus goods." In such cases, criminals issue documents false in content to conceal their actions. Several such cases were cited. Speakers at the session emphasized that one of the reasons for the large number of such cases was the fact that qualifications of supervisors are not properly checked prior to their appointment. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 19 December 1959, page 1)

The Sofia Okrug People's Soviet held a session on 15 December 1959. The first item on the agenda was the status of law observance in the okrug. Sofia Okrug Prosecutor As. Kolchev reported that many violations of the law were still occurring in the okrug. Arbitrary decisions and decrees by local officials have been issued in violation of certain basic laws. For example, unjustified fines have been imposed, and frequently complaints by the working people have been utterly ignored. The registers in the Bureau of Vital Statistics are not being systematically maintained. The registration of marriages, births, etc. is extremely slow, many errors are made in the recording of death dates, etc. In many cases, there has been poor financial discipline, and it is evident that problems in connection with labor safety have been neglected. (Sofiyska Pravda, Sofia, 17 December 1959, page 1)

III. THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

A. Fatherland Front Schools

The Pleven Fatherland Front Organization is sponsoring 1,737 study circles and 553 readers' groups. They are being attended by about 62,000 Fatherland Front members. There are 211 study groups, with an attendance of 4,383 students, which are engaged in the study of the materials on "The Soviet Union on the Road to Communism." A total of 256 groups, attended by 5,811 persons, are studying "Successes of and Prospects for Bulgarian Socialist Construction." (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Pleven, 19 December 1959, page 1)

B. Propaganda Lectures

The first half of 1959 was a period of intensive propaganda lectures in Pleven Okrug. Many public meetings were held last winter and spring in enterprises, establishments, farms, city sectors and villages with lectures on the report of N. S. Khrushchev to the XXI Congress of the CPSU, the speech made by Todor Zhivkov to the People's Assembly, and on other current matters. During July and August, however, the number of lectures dropped off, although there were important problems for discussion. Current lecturers' activities, despite the favorable conditions for an intensive propaganda campaign among the working people, fall below the desired standard. The low ideological level of the talks given, their remoteness from life and from the current tasks confronting the working people constitute serious shortcomings, in the case of many lecturers. In many cases, lecture propaganda is in the hands of teachers and other persons, some of whom are Party members and some of whom are not. At the same time, high placed members of the Party, the Agrarian Union and the Fatherland Front are failing to take part in this work. The activities of lecturers' groups attached to the Okrug Committee of the Fatherland Front and the Komsomol Organization for Pleven Okrug are also unsatisfactory. Lecturers to be given now should involve problems related to the economic competition between capitalism and socialism, the laws governing the transition from socialism to communism, and possibilities of a closely synchronized transition of all socialist countries to communism. The problems set forth at the Seventh BCP Congress and the Plenums of the CC of the BCP should be discussed, particularly in connection with the further upsurge of further Bulgarian socialist construction and the improvement of living standards for the people. Bulgarian lecture propaganda should also contribute toward the elimination of bourgeois remnants in the minds of the people and their education toward communist virtues. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, 19 December 1959, page 2)

IV. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

A. Anniversary of Stalin's Birth

"During the last years of his life, Y. V. Stalin permitted serious shortcomings to occur. The Party and its Leninist Central Committee, on the initiative of N. S. Khrushchev, discovered the damage being caused by the personality cult which worshipped Stalin and the shortcomings caused by it. They waged an energetic struggle against these trends.

"The XX Congress of the CPSU approved the tremendous work done by the Central Committee to restore Leninist norms in Party life and to develop inner Party democracy.

"The Bulgarian Communist Party, which acknowledges the merits of Y. V. Stalin as a noted Marxist-Leninist, warmly approved the historical decisions made by the XX Congress of the CPSU." (Narodno Delo, Varna, 22 December 1959, page 2)

The Bulgarian working people will respectfully remember Joseph Stalin on the 80th anniversary of his birth. He was a true defender of communist truth and one of Lenin's primary helpers. He untiringly defended and promoted Lenin's ideological and Bolshevik principals. His books played an important role in the strengthening of the Communist Party, and the further promotion of Marxist theories. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Pleven, 22 December 1959, page 1)

B. New Candidate-Party Members

The following have been accepted as candidate Party members from the Stara Zagora Okrug Construction Organization: Nedelcho Dimitrov, chairman of a trade union committee; Stefan Penev, an electrician and member of the Komsomol Committee of the Organization; and Tonyu Khristov, a crane operator. (Septemvri, Stara Zagora, 17 December 1959, page 2)

Party organizations in Burgas Okrug have accepted more than 800 young candidate Party members for the BCP. The Burgas Party organization currently has more than 1,087 candidate members, and about 2,500 Party members accepted in the past three years. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 22 December 1959, page 1)

V. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

A. Crime

In 1953, the Stara Zagora Okrug Courts tried 2,671 criminal cases, while in 1958 they tried only 896. This number is expected to drop further for 1959. However, crimes having to do with the safeguarding of socialist property are still being committed. In 1956, some 236 persons were tried for violation of socialist property; in 1957 the figure was 304; and in 1958 there were 372 such cases. The obvious conclusion is that along with a general trend toward a decrease in criminal actions in the okrug, this type of crime has not fallen off. About 40% of the criminals sentenced for such offenses have been members of commercial organizations. (Septemvri, Stara Zagora, 17 December 1959, page 1)

VI. MILITARY

A. Identification of Commissioned Officers

Colonel Neshev is the Commanding Officer of the Higher Military Artillery School "Georgi Dimitrov" in Kolarovgrad. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 22 December 1959, page 1)

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

- 1) Photograph of Krum Mikhaylov, Chairman of the Sofia Okrug Trade Union Council. (Sofiyska Pravda, Sofia, 19 December 1959, page 1)
- 2) Photograph of Slavcho Gilin, Chairman of the Plovdiv Okrug Trade Union Council. (Otechestven Glas, Plovdiv, 19 December 1959, page 1)

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