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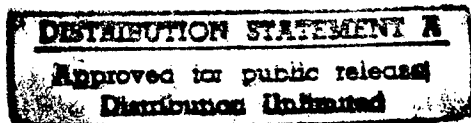
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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(10-16 December 1959)

No. 53

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FOREWORD

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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(10-16 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 10-16 December 1959. All items, whether summaries, condensations or partial translations, reflect the specific and contextual meaning of the original text.

During this week the newspapers report on a large number of annual Party meetings held by primary organizations in villages and cities. They also carry the usual end-of-the-year reports on various farms and enterprises which have fulfilled their annual plans. They feature articles describing outstanding workers.

Talks are continually being given on Khrushchev's visit to the USA. All the newspapers make mention of the 100th anniversary of Dr. Zamenhoff's birth.

Appendix A of the summary lists graphic illustrations.

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Pirinsko Delo

Chernomorski Front

Dimitrovgradska Pravda

Dimitrovsko Zname

Kolarovgradska Borba

Khaskovska Tribuna

Septemvriyska Pobeda

Dunavska Pravda

Sofiyska Pravda

Septemvri

Narodno Delo

I. ECONOMIC

A. Manufacturing Industries

Recently the "Ivan Dimitrov" Shipyard (Korabostroitel'nitsa "Ivan Dimitrov") in Ruse undertook the construction of two 1,000 ton barges, one 300 ton seagoing vessel, and one five-ton Gantry crane. Five such cranes are to be produced at that enterprise in 1960. (Dunavska Pravda, Ruse, 12 December 1959, page 1)

B. Ferrous Metallurgy

As of the first of December, the "Lenin" Metallurgical Plant (Metalurgichen zavod "Lenin") began production of star-shaped low alloy steel. Production of this type of steel is cheaper than that of others, and it is better for construction work. Its quality meets Soviet standards. This steel is being cast in ingots of 250 kg. The plant is scheduled to produce 40,000 ton of low alloy steel in 1960. (Dimitrovska Zname, Dimitrovo, 16 December 1959, p 2)

C. Fuels and Power

The gigantic "Maritsa-Iztok" Thermoelectric Power Plant Complex (TETs "Maritsa-Iztok"), which is the largest project included in the Third Five-Year Plan, is being built in the Stara Zagora Plain, 35 to 40 km to the southeast of Stara Zagora. This area contains approximately 80% of the coal deposits in Bulgaria. Work was first begun on the "Trojanovo-1" Coal Mine, the largest open pit in the Balkan Peninsula. Coal deposits here are estimated at about 3,000,000,000 ton. There are seams as thick as 40 m, rendering mining relatively easy. When the "Maritsa-Iztok" Thermoelectric Power Plant is completed it will have an annual production capacity of 3,850,000,000 kwh. Another open pit, the "Trojanovo-2" Pit, is now being developed. To begin with it will yield about 20,000 ton of coal every 24 hours. A second electric power plant, to have a capacity of 600,000 kw, is to be built. The annual coal production will then be 20,000,000 ton. Most of the machinery used in this construction was supplied by other socialist countries. Personnel includes Soviet, Czech and German specialists, as well as Bulgarians. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 16 December 1959, p 3)

A general estimate of the needs and capacity for electric energy and heat should be made for technological processes, industrial areas and homes in the city and okrug of Ruse. The needs of industry and the general population for lighting, heating, hot water, productive power and transportation, etc. ought to be determined, as should the role to be played in the future by electrification, heat supply and individual fuel plants. The supplying of energy in Bulgarian cities is done most uneconomically. About 90% of the total energy needs in Bulgaria are

filled by individual fuel plants, and the other 10% by means of electricity. This ratio should be altered radically in the future construction of Bulgarian cities. Industrial zones should be established, as well as densely populated residential areas. This would lead to a concentration of industrial and private energy consumption, and would facilitate the implementation of the most profitable scheme for the central supply of energy in any given city.

Very little has been done in this connection in the city of Ruse and Ruse Okrug. The city contains more than 100 steam boilers, all of which are in very worn condition and operate at a low coefficient in terms of useful production. They are scattered all over the city, and annually require more than 200,000 ton of high grade coal. Many persons are needed to run them. If a breakdown in any one of them occurs, it disturbs the production process in many enterprises. Adding to the industrial coal consumption the 150,000 ton of fuel needed for residential areas, the enormous figure of 350,000 ton of high grade coal with an average of 3,500 to 4,000 calories per kilogram is reached. This much fuel is consumed in Ruse. For proper consumption, a thermoelectric power plant should be constructed there to produce electrical energy, steam and hot water for enterprises and residential premises. The annual consumption of steam in Ruse city is 3,000,000 ton. The city uses more than 100,000,000 kwh of electrical energy. Half of the boilers are 50% obsolete or worn out, and the rest are 90% inefficient. Their maintenance is primitive in nature and requires the services of an unjustifiably large number of persons. A thermoelectric power plant in the city would considerably cut the losses incurred in the conducting of electrical energy from southern Bulgaria to Ruse Okrug. A Ruse regional thermoelectric power plant would be a stable and entirely independent source of energy. This would be of particular use in winter when ice causes breaks in the energy conducting system. The burning of unrefined oil, the transport of which is easy and inexpensive, would eliminate the expensive transportation of coal over large distances to various points in the city.

The first step in the resolution of this problem has already been taken. It has been decided that a thermoelectric power plant is to be built in Ruse. It will have a turbine with a capacity of 25,000 kw. Unrefined oil will be used as fuel. The power plant will supply electric energy and steam power for industrial enterprises in the eastern sector of the city, including the "Georgi Dimitrov" State Machine Building Plant (DMZ "Georgi Dimitrov"). (Dunavska Pravda, Ruse, 12 December 1959, page 2)

D. Consumer Goods, Food Industry, and Domestic Trade.

In November the "Elprom" Electric Heating Device Factory (Fabrika "Elprom"), in Varna, produced the first series of 50 sample vacuum cleaners. It expects to produce 350 in December. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 12 December 1959, page 3)

E. Transportation and Communications

It is expected that in 1960, Dimitrovgrad enterprises will require raw materials and coal totaling 600,000 ton. Almost all of the city's production, as well as the raw materials arriving, have to be handled through the Dimitrovgrad railroad junction. The current and future bottleneck is the Dimitrovgrad Railroad Station. It has eight pairs of tracks, four of which handle passenger traffic, and four of which handle freight. In 1957, there was an average of 1,280 railroad cars arriving at the station daily. The equivalent figure for 1958 was 1,480, and that for 1959 was 1,860. The Dimitrovgrad Railroad Station handles more freight cars than Stara Zagora, Burgas, and Polyanovgrad Stations, and is second in traffic volume only to the Plovdiv Station. It has a maximum capacity of 1,300 railroad cars per day. In 1960, there will be 2,200-2,400 cars to be handled daily. This stoppage has resulted in a deterioration of the quality of the work at the station. The layover of cars at the station has increased by 10%. This is the equivalent of 800-900 car hours per day. The handling capacity of this station sufficed for Rakovski village, which had a population of between 2,000 and 3,000 persons. However, Dimitrovgrad currently has a population of almost 50,000. A shortage of equipment at the Dimitrovgrad Railroad Depot has made it necessary for engine repairs to be made in Plovdiv and Stara Zagora. Thus a considerable loss of time is incurred.

Another important problem is found in the living condition of station workers. Currently about 70% of them are living in other settlements. Their canteen is entirely inadequate, and they have no facilities for cultural activities. (Dimitrovgradska Pravda, Dimitrovgrad, 10 December 1959, pages 1 and 3)

F. Construction and Construction Materials.

In 11 months and 14 days, the State Cement Plant at Reka Devnya village has produced 417,039 ton of cement. The planned production was 417,000 ton. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 16 December 1959, page 1)

II. THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

A. Fatherland Front Schools

During the 1959-1960 school year, the Fatherland Front in Khaskovo Okrug is operating 1,566 study circles which are being attended by 48,000 persons. This represents an increase of 19,400 persons over last year's attendance. (Khaskovska Tribuna, Khaskovo, 12 December 1959, page 1)

III. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

A. New Candidate-Party Members

Newly accepted candidate Party members in Kolarovgrad Okrug include:

From Troytsa village: B. Nikolov, a high school graduate and Komsomol member since 1947, and for two years a team leader in the Farm Workers' Cooperative; Khristo Georgiev, Secretary of the Village Komsomol Committee; Nadezhda Ilieva; Yordanka Nikolaeva; and Krustinka Atanasova.

From Tsar Krum village: Vulcho Dragostinov, Secretary of the Village Komsomol Committee; and Yordan Konstantinov, a worker.

(Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 10 December 1959, page 1)

The "Madara" State Industrial Enterprise (DIP "Madara") in Kolarovgrad employs a total of 44 Communist Party members. Their average age is 40, and 18 are over 46. The party organization at the enterprise decided to accept as candidate party members the following workers: Vladimir Panchev, Secretary of the Komsomol group in the enterprise; Atanas Vasilev Todorov; Ivan Dyakov, a stoker; and Khristo Dimitrov. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 10 December 1959, page 1)

The following new candidate party members have been accepted: Ivan Borislavov, Secretary of the Komsomol Organization at the Preslav Industrial Combine; Ivan Koley, a foreman at the repair shop at the same site; and Metodi Radinov, a worker at the "Ticha" Hydroelectric Power Plant (VETs "Ticha") in Milanovo village.

Until 5 December 1959, the Preslav City BCP Committee had taken in 23 young people as candidate Party members. The total number of young people is expected to reach 50. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 15 December 1959, p 1)

B. Party Schools

During the 1959-1960 party school year, the Blagoevgrad Okrug BCP Committee is sponsoring 663 study circles and 54 seminars, with a total attendance of about 70% of the Party members in the okrug. However, classes and seminars are not being held regularly. In some areas, obshchina party committees have undervalued the role of the ideological work of the party. Supervision and guidance of the party school program has been neglected. Some party propaganda workers are doing unsatisfactory work, as their lectures and talks are too hastily prepared. For this reason they are often uninteresting to the students. Others read direct from the texts. Some students do not have the proper books, and not enough seminars have been organized. (Pirinsko Delo, Blagoevgrad, 16 December 1959, p 1)

C. Annual Party Conferences

It should be made clear that despite the success achieved in the annual election and accounting party conferences in Varna Okrug, these meetings were not properly prepared or executed in all places. In several villages, these meetings were postponed because they had not been properly prepared. In other localities, speakers dealt only with the evident shortcomings. This should be done, but the successes achieved during the year should have been stressed as well. Speeches at these conferences have failed to take up extensively the problems of party activities. No indications have been given as to how these party organizations have battled to strengthen Party and state discipline. Too little attention is paid to the communist education of and cultural education among the population, and to party activities in mass organizations. In some meetings, the attendance has been limited, and activity on the part of Communist Party members has been inadequate. These shortcomings demonstrate that certain party bureaus are undervaluing the importance of election meetings. The result is that petty and insignificant, rather than the basic and most important, problems are dealt with. These weaknesses are partially due to the inadequate aid which the obshtina party committees render. The 250 meetings which have thus far been held in the okrug have evidenced a small number of specialists in party bureaus. These latter should devote greater attention to this problem, and should see that their membership includes larger numbers of specialists. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 10 December 1959, page 1)

The annual report of the party bureau in Gorna Mitropoliya village indicated that the merged farm workers' cooperative in the village is in arrears in many of its agricultural activities. There has been wastage of fodder and also many violations of labor discipline have been evidenced. In 1958, competition among the farmers was well organized. The Administrative Council of the farm established prizes for winners; participation was also established for losers in the competition, whereby the latter had to buy gifts for the winners. Thus all cooperative farmers were included in the contest. "Cooperative farmers supervised each other, and every irregularity was reported to the party bureau and to the competition committee."

Work has fallen off in 1959. The fever accompanying the merger of the farm has not yet abated. Parochial sentiments have not as yet been counteracted. They have for some time paralyzed the party bureau and the party organization, resulting in the neglect of their principal tasks -- that of organizing the people. (Septemvriyska Pobeda, Pleven, 12 December 1959, page 2)

D. Party Membership

The primary party organization in Dobri Voynikov village in Kolarovgrad Okrug includes 21 members, of which 11 are over 40 years old. The party bureau has taken only negligible measures to attract younger members. For example, it takes the view that if women are admitted as party members, they would perform no useful duties. This conservative attitude prevailing among the members of the party bureau must be corrected. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 12 December 1959, page 1)

IV. CHURCH-STATE RELATIONSHIP

A. Lecture on Religious Customs

A lecture on the nature of religious holidays, customs and ceremonies was given on 15 December 1959 in Varna. The speaker outlined the origin of religion and its ceremonies. Questions were asked by many citizens on the influence of the Catholic Church, and on certain "secret" societies and practices. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 16 December 1959, page 1)

B. Past of Protestant Preacher Revealed

In the past Slavi Stoilov Karadzhov, who was born in 1903, had a record of theft, murder and rape. He then decided to become a protestant preacher, but because of his record, he preached only in areas where he was not known. He now preaches in the city of Stara Zagora, where he is an assistant minister. Believers there know of his past life and his immoral thoughts, however. In 1957, Karadzhov went to Topolovgrad to receive the protestant sect there. He boasted that he could go 40 days without bread or water. A medical examination 37 days later, however, showed that he had been eating very well the whole time. He is known for his mistreatment of his wife. His son ran away from home to avoid beatings. This character can be described in five or six words. He is strong, communicative, intelligent, mean and capable of any wrongdoing.

For some time this person has been living in the city of Radomir, where he is trying to strengthen the protestant movement. The honest cooperative farmers who receive him in their homes are unaware that this murderer of the sons of the people is using their religious feelings to mock them. They should close their ears to his falsehoods such as to limit his crimes. They should not put any stock in his sanctimonious air. (Dimitrovsko Zname, Dimitrovo, 16 December 1959, page 4)

V. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

A. Turkish Minority

Recently the Turkish women in Shevnovo village have cast away their veils. This was the result of an extensive explanatory campaign in which speakers discussed the international situation and the "difficulties of the peasants in Turkey." They also stressed the great achievements of the working people in Bulgaria, especially in regard to the rights of women." (Septemvri, Stara Zagora, 12 December 1959, page 1)

A national conference on the work being done by the Fatherland Front organizations with the Turkish population was held in Kolarovgrad on 12 December 1959. It was sponsored by the National Fatherland Front Council. Boris Nikolov, a member of the CC of the BCP and First Secretary of the Kolarovgrad Okrug BCP Committee; other important Fatherland Front officials; Akhmed Arunov, Deputy Chief of the Department on Work With the Turkish Population of the CC of the BCP; and delegates from ten other okrugs attended. A report on the work being done in Kolarovgrad Okrug by the Fatherland Front with the Turkish population was delivered by Angel Videnov, Chairman of the Kolarovgrad Okrug BCP Committee. He stressed the economic welfare of the Turkish population in recent years, and spoke of the need for attack upon prejudices still remaining in the minds of the people from the past. This attack is being led by the party and the Fatherland Front with the help of the people's soviets and the progressive Turkish intelligentsia. The speaker also emphasized the paramount need for a struggle toward the patriotic and internationalist education of the Turkish working people, and the eradication of chauvinist Turkish and Bulgarian feelings. More and more persons, he said, are becoming aware that the Turks' motherland is that in which they were born and which their forefathers, in whose steps they follow, cultivated. He pointed out that their skies are not those above Turkey but those above the Danube Plain, Thrace and the Rhodope Mountains where they first saw daylight. Thousands of Turks have received indoctrination on matters pertaining to nationality and language. An adamant battle against religious fanaticism and toward the creation of scientific concepts in the peoples' minds has been waged. Many atheistic lectures against Islam have been delivered by lecture groups in the villages. Popular scientific talks are dealing crushing blows to Islam. Education and truth are banishing the lies of Mohammed. The Turkish population is becoming increasingly literate. This year 30% of this population is participating in the Fatherland Front political education system, and those who visit mosques are increasingly few. Not many young people still heed the admonitions of the imams. Almost all the Turkish women in the Okrug are wearing European clothing and have cast off their veils. Fatherland Front educational groups now have an attendance of 4,199 Turkish women. Speaker Arunov stressed that the main task of the Komsomol organizations is to recruit for its ranks the young Turks who are not already participating. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 15 December 1959, pp 1 and 4)

B. Gypsy Minority

A conference of teachers and parents of gypsy school children was sponsored by two Kolarovgrad grammar schools. A paper on "Gypsies As Parents and Educators" was read by M. Angelova, the Assistant Principal of one of the grammar schools. She remonstrated with gypsy parents for failure to attend PTA meetings, and stressed that consciously or subconsciously they are hindering the teachers' work by failing to send their children to school regularly. She emphasized the benefits which the schools provided to gypsy students. Many can eat in free city canteens or with army units. Others have been sent on trips around the country, all have been provided with free notebooks, and many have been given free texts, etc. Gypsy parents attending expressed the desire that more frequent gypsy PTA meetings be organized. No. Arnaudov, Chairman of the "D. Blagoev" School PTA Committee, spoke on the new socialist relationships established between Bulgarians and gypsies. He appealed to gypsy parents who are Communist Party members to change their attitudes toward the schools. (Kolarovgradska Borba, 10 December 1959, page 2)

C. Crime

On 15 November 1959, at 2100, Rayna and Ivan Mitonovi were walking to their village, Vrachesh, from Botevgrad. A passenger car driven by Bogomil Georgiev Donkov, a driver for "Balkanturist" in Sofia, and carrying as passengers Aleksandur Petkov Tsvetkov, a student at the "Karl Marx" Higher Economic Institute in Sofia, and Dimitur Simeonov Babulev, a mailman from Sofia, overtook them. These latter three persons attacked the couple, subjected them to indignities, and left them almost naked. A passing driver saw the scene and reported it to the militia, who saved the couple's lives. The criminals struggled with the militia, and fired shots at them.

Dozens of letters were received by the prosecuting organs and the course from the working people of the Botevgrad region, and they requested the severest possible punishment for the criminals. The case was tried on 10-11 December 1959 in Botevgrad. The three defendants were condemned to be shot. (Sofiyska Pravda, Sofia, 15 December 1959, page 2)

Graphic Illustrations

- (1) View of the main electric power plant building at the "Maritsa-Iztok" Thermoelectric Power Plant Complex (TETs "Maritsa-Iztok"). (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 16 December 1959, p 3)