

INFORMATION REPORT

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Fid 39

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CD NO. 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 23 JUNE 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Bulgaria

SUBJECT Yugoslav Pact with Macedonian Independence Movement

1. An official meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey during the month of March 1949 between Yugoslav delegates and an IMRO delegation headed by Vanca Mihailov. Mihailov requested and received from the Yugoslav delegation a written agreement whereby Yugoslavia will point all its diplomatic acumen and activity toward the formation of an independent Macedonian state. The Yugoslav Government agreed to make every effort to obtain international concessions for this new state, and to influence public opinion in Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia in favor of this plan. Further, the Yugoslav Government will also undertake to subsidize the IMRO for a period of two years following the conclusion of this agreement.
2. Mihailov, in turn, acting for the IMRO, agreed to desist from all anti-Yugoslav activity, and will promote agitation for independence among the Macedonians of Bulgaria. The IMRO will attempt to turn the sympathies of Macedonians, in both Bulgaria and Greece, in favor of Yugoslavia.
3. Significantly, the accord provides that the Macedonian state is to have a democratic government, which is to be neither pro nor anti-Communist.
4. A mutual defense pact also will be concluded with Yugoslavia. It will cease to be in effect, however, the moment Yugoslavia attempts to exert pressure on the internal affairs of Macedonia. The agreement further stipulates that the Intelligence Services of the IMRO, which are active in Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania, will be placed at the disposition of the Yugoslavs. In the event of armed conflict, Macedonian resistance groups will be ordered to operate with the Yugoslav forces.
5. The Yugoslav delegation made an attempt to incorporate a clause in the agreement whereby the Macedonian State would express itself in favor of a Balkan Federation. The IMRO, however, refused to commit itself on this question, and it was thereupon postponed to a later date.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: It is the opinion of the source that neither party was acting entirely in good faith in entering this pact. Yugoslavia hopes to gain control of the IMRO whereas the latter finds it profitable to obtain at least temporary support for an independent Macedonia, while the Tito-Cominform rift continues.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 009
 NO CHANGE in Class
 UNCLASSIFIED
 Class CHANGED TO: TS S C
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG 77/1783
 Date: 21 MAR 2009

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~~SECRET~~ Comment: During the first half of 1946, Mihailov was reported to have lost his life in an engagement with Bulgarian security units. For the next two years very few reports concerning Mihailov and the IMRO were received, except that Mihailov, under an assumed name, was reported as hiding "somewhere in Austria". In late 1948 and early 1949 various Yugoslav exile sources reported that Mihailov entered Italy and now lives in Rome. During this same period, however, Mihailov was reported to have been a resident of Buenos Aires, Argentina for several years and that recently he was approached by pro-Cominform Yugoslavs with a proposal to induce the IMRO to take active resistance against Tito in exchange for an independent Macedonia.

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