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TO : Chief, JTF 27 IE-16
FROM : Chief of Station, []

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SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational
SPECIFIC - Strategic Studies
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Ref: (P) []- [] (Ref: [])

Attached herewith subject's story of his part in the escape of the seven bodies mentioned in reference. Report prepared by []

RPP/gam

Moyd E. Desmond

1 Atchmt

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FORM NO. 51-28A
MAY 1962

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Edranko DIMITROV - 2

1. Zdravko Kostadin DIMITROV, was born 6 September 1928 in Belastica, Plovdiv. He finished eleven elementary grades and gymnasium in Plovdiv. He was a farmer. From 5 April 1950 until 6 May 1951 he served as a Trudovak in Bezmer and Galcik from where he deserted on 6 May 1951. In company with two other Trudovaks, Stefan PELTEKOV and Spas RAIKIN; Ivan and Petur NIKOLOV; Petur and Boris PELTEKOV; he escaped to Greece and surrendered to the Greek authorities on 21 June 1951. He is presently living in Lavrion camp, Greece.
2. Subject was interrogated by GARABEAN, GALATIA, Drama Interrogation Center, ELISIR, GASP, and GASP/S. His story follows:
3. While serving in the Trudovak unit in Bezmer, Jambol district, he became a close friend of Spas RAIKIN. Both were planning to desert their unit and escape to Turkey. Several other Trudovaks tried to escape to Turkey but were caught. Later he was transferred to the Galcik Trudovak unit, along with RAIKIN, where they became acquainted with Stefan PELTEKOV, who had planned to escape to Greece. PELTEKOV was counting on the help of his brother-in-law, Vasil LAZAROV, a NCO in the 8 Infantry Regiment in Plovdiv, to aid in his escape. Since DIMITROV and RAIKIN at this point were unable to organize a safe escape to Turkey, they decided to join PELTEKOV and go to Greece, particularly since all three were from the Plovdiv area.
4. About the end of April LAZAROV informed Stefan PELTEKOV that he had found a guide who would take him to Greece if Stefan could arrive in Plovdiv by 7 May 1951.
5. On 6 May DIMITROV, Stefan PELTEKOV and Spas RAIKIN left their unit. They travelled on foot to Varna, and from Varna to Plovdiv by train, arriving 7 May without incident. They were met by Vasil LAZAROV and his wife, Maria. LAZAROV took them immediately to a little woods near the village Belastica and promised to send a friend of his with food and armament that same night. The signal for recognition was misunderstood and no contact was made.
6. The following morning the entire group went to Plovdiv in search of Vasil LAZAROV. They found him and his wife, as well as Stefan's uncle, Boris PELTEKOV. All left immediately for Markovo to find Petur NIKOLOV who would take further care of the Trudovaks. Edranko DIMITROV and Boris PELTEKOV were separated from the others and went to Eranspola where they were located by Angel DIMITROV. DIMITROV brought DIMITROV to a hiding place near the village Markovo where he joined the other two Trudovaks. That night all three Trudovaks were taken over by Petur NIKOLOV who gave them food and three rifles with ammunition.

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7. On 9 May one Ivan Todarov STAMENOV visited the Trudovaks and instructed them in the operation of the weapons they had received. The same evening Petur NIKOLOV took the Trudovaks to Gola Mogila, 20 kilometers south of Markovo, where Vasil LAZAROV and his wife, Maria, were waiting for them.
8. Petur NIKOLOV and Ivan Todarov STAMENOV urged the Trudovaks to join the Gorjani instead of fleeing to Greece. LAZAROV also informed them that he was planning to organize a Gorjani group in Gola Mogila and that the Trudovaks should form the nucleus. The Trudovaks refused and insisted on going to Greece, and Lazarov promised to find a guide.
9. During the 11, 12, and 13 May the Trudovaks remained at Gola Mogila by themselves without food and then decided to return to Plovdiv and contact Stefan's father, Petur PELETKOV, as they had lost faith in LAZAROV. On 14 May Boris PELETKOV brought them food and ordered them to return to Gola Mogila.
10. On 16 May Ivan NIKOLOV brought one Iliev GIUROV to Gola Mogila who would take the Trudovaks to the Gorjani. The Trudovaks having lost hope of escaping to Greece had agreed to join the Gorjani. GIUROV, who was to return the following day did not show up, and it was learned later that he had been arrested.
11. On 19 May DAMJANOV and Stefan PELETKOV went again to Plovdiv and met Vasil LAZAROV. LAZAROV again promised to find a guide for Greece and ordered the Trudovaks to return to Gola Mogila. On 22 May Petur PELETKOV brought the news that Vasil LAZAROV had been arrested on 19 May and on 24 May, his wife, Maria, had been arrested. He also told them that one Stefan SEMPANOV, a lawyer, from Sofia had arrived in Plovdiv and wished to join the Trudovaks in their flight to Greece. Petur PELETKOV saw some Security agents surveilling the lawyer and further contact was impossible.
12. From 26 May to 6 June the Trudovaks remained in Gola Mogila or other places in the vicinity and in wandering around the area their presence became known to the inhabitants.
13. On 7 June Boris PELETKOV advised them to go to Markovo and hide in Ivan NIKOLOV'S place where it would be easier to provide them with food. That same evening they went to NIKOLOV'S place and he explained to them that his brother, Petur, had been arrested, and they had decided to escape to Greece. The NIKOLOVS were to be joined by the brothers PELETKOV, whose house had been placed under police surveillance. However, on 7 June Boris PELETKOV came to Gola Mogila and told the Trudovaks that his brother, Petur, did not consider the situation completely compromised and was reluctant to join the escape party.

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Zdravko DANCANOV

- Zvezdets*
- Chepari*
- Belastica*
14. On 9 June the PELTEKOVs joined the group and on 11 June the party started for Greece. On 11 and 12 June they remained near the villages Leden and Malevo, on 13 June near the village Zvezdets, and on 14 June near the village Chepari where they were able to obtain food. On 14, 15 and 16 June they were in the vicinity of the village Stoikite, 17 June near Sliven, and on 18 June near the Greek border. On 19 June they crossed into Greece and on 21 surrendered to the Greeks.
 15. Informant states the Vasil LAZAROV is from the village Belastica and is known to him. LAZAROV was a legionnaire until 1918, he was persecuted by the regime and spent some time in prison. After his release from prison LAZAROV joined the Communist Youth Organization and apparently had a successful career in the "agit-prop" section. With the help of a relative, Nikolina DONKOVA, an old communist, LAZAROV was promoted to NCO in the army.
 16. Subject states he never saw the Gorjani rebels, but he often heard of them and had listened to the Gorjani radio station broadcasts. On 28 May 1951 informant states he saw an aeroplane cruising in in the area of the village Ferdinandovo, Plovdiv, which was allegedly attacked by the Gorjanis. LAZAROV told the Trudevaks that the Gorjanis had three groups, one each in Plovdiv, Sliven and Sofia areas.
 17. In the village Belastica there were about 1250 inhabitants but only about 20 were communists. Informant did not know of any anti-communist organization in the village.
 18. Informant did not know the brothers NIKOLOV previously. He regards them as sold nationalists, energetic and honest. He never suspected them of affiliation with the State Security and believes they had ample opportunity to hand them over to the Militia if the NIKOLOVS were so inclined.
 19. Informant also did not know Peter and Peris PELTEKOV. He thinks they are both anti-communist and thorough nationalists. According to informant, Peter PELTEKOV is the exuberant type, boasting and not very serious. Both PELTEKOVs blamed LAZAROV for all their trouble while they were in Bulgaria, but later in Greece they defended him. The quarrel between the NIKOLOVS and the PELTEKOVs was caused by mutual suspicion, mostly with respect to LAZAROV. The hardship and hunger endured during their flight to Greece added to the original misunderstanding.
 20. Of the members of the underground organization, informant saw only Ivan Todorov STOJANOV, who instructed them in operating weapons, and Angel HRISTOV. HRISTOV left a solid and positive impression with informant.

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Zdravko J. M. NOV

despite his age of only 25-26 years. HUSTONOV told informant about the organization in Floridiv and Markovo, and of his intention to form a subject group in the area.

Comments:

Informant is of no operational value. His only desire is to emigrate and he has made application for emigration to Brazil.

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