

MP
20 Jan
VI-1415BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES /0300/
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CULTUREY /0800/
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EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE FOR ATOMIC RESEARCH

SOURCE ROME : Regular RFE reporter from a Bulgarian Communist doctor, who left SOFIA on 16 December 1953 en route to Israel.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : December 1953.

EVAL. COMMENT : Recently, a special branch, attached to the Ministry of National Defense, was created to deal with the problems of atomic warfare. For more details see RFE Item No 175/54.

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I asked my source whether the rumors about Bulgaria's atomic defense preparations had any true foundation. He confirmed this information but stated that, so far, the whole campaign is limited to propagandistic measures only, and that, so far nothing concrete has come out of it. However, an Experimental Institute for atomic research is being organized in SOFIA. This institute is a branch of the SOFIA University, but will be greatly enlarged in the near future, and the government has allotted considerable sums for that purpose. The head of the said institute is Dr. Engineer POLIKAR, a young scientist who so far, has been in charge of the faculty for physics at the SOFIA University. Two years ago POLIKAR was in Russia for special studies, but nobody knew that he was studying atomic energy. After two years spent in Russia studying, POLIKAR returned to Bulgaria, was given the chair of physics and is at present chief of this new institute. Nobody knows exactly how the activities of this new Institute are developing.

POLIKAR was a good friend of my source and stated that there was no question about atomic bombs being manufactured in the said institute; but that the institute would exclusively serve the purpose to give the scientists the chance to study atomic research, i.e., this institute is to serve not bellicose, but scientific purposes.