



The New York Times/Lawrence G. Hauck
Changing of the guard outside the Georgi Dimitrov mausoleum in Sofia. A poster of a Soviet soldier is at rear. Mr. Dimitrov, a leading Communist ideologist, assumed the post of Premier when Bulgaria became a republic in 1946.

Bulgarian Capital: A Soviet Air

By **RAYMOND H. ANDERSON**
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SOFIA, Bulgaria, Nov. 3—One of the striking aspects of this Bulgarian capital is the profusion of monuments to Russia, past and present, streets named for Russians, and stores, cinemas and restaurants with names like Moskva, Lenin and Russian Club.

In the last few days in particular, Sofia has taken on the appearance of a Soviet city with banners, slogans and picture displays put up everywhere in honor of the Nov. 7 anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, which took place 55 years ago.

This morning workers were struggling to raise a 50-foot-high portrait of Lenin on the National Gallery of Art, on 9th of September Square opposite the white limestone mausoleum of Georgi Dimitrov, the Bulgarian revolutionary leader.

Fresh wreaths were placed at the Soviet Army monument on V.I. Lenin Boulevard, a 105-foot structure depicting a Soviet soldier triumphantly brandishing a sub-machine gun over the heads of a welcoming Bulgarian worker, woman and child.

Tourists Photographed

On Russian Boulevard, tourists posed for photographs in front of a monument to Alexander II, the Russian Czar who declared war against Turkey in 1877 and liberated Bulgaria from five centuries of Turkish occupation.

There is a deep feeling in Bulgaria for Russia, and much of it stems from the gratitude still felt for the help given after the Turks' brutal repression of a Bulgarian uprising in 1876.

In honor of the liberation from the Turks, Bulgarians raised a massive, golden-domed cathedral in Sofia named for Alexander Nevsky, the 13th century Russian prince who defeated German invaders.

In more recent years, Bulgaria has been the benefi-

ary of substantial Soviet assistance — estimated to total well over \$2-billion—for fast development of industry and agriculture.

"There is no doubt about it," a foreign resident here commented, "Bulgaria has gained much from Soviet help. It's the one country in the bloc whose friendship the Russians feel sure of and they reward it with generous development credits."

Friendship Museum

Virtually all of the country's industry and agricultural mechanization has been the result of Soviet aid.

Lest memories fade, a special museum of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship has been opened in Sofia to chronicle the history of close ties.

The museum, in a five-story building with a miniature Kremlin spire, traces the history of Russian-Bulgarian relations from the time of the Kievan state a thousand years ago.

The first thing that visitors see when they enter the exhibition hall is a quotation from a ballad, "The Lay of the Campaign of Prince Igor," about the battle of the Kievan prince against Polovtsy invaders:

*Maiden are singing along
 the Danube,
 And their voices carry
 across the sea to Kiev*

The exhibits, including copies of monumental paintings by V. V. Vereshchagin, concentrate on the liberation by Russian troops in 1877-88 and the arrival of the Soviet Army in the country in 1944.

One of the more prominent exhibits is a facsimile of the May 12, 1877, declaration of war against Turkey by Alexander.

A visitor to the museum found it filled with school children and occasional groups of Russian tourists.

"As Georgi Dimitrov pointed out, our history is close because of our common Slavic origin and . . ." a museum guide began as a group of Russians arrived.

Several women in the group took the opportunity to disappear behind a heavy red velvet curtain shrouding the door to the women's room. Two men withdrew to the stairway for cigarettes.