

THE TURKISH MINORITY
IN
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF
BULGARIA



SOFIA
1951

THE TURKISH MINORITY
IN
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF
BULGARIA

SOFIA
1951

INTRODUCTION

Several national minorities and ethnic groups — Turks, Gypsies, Armenians, Jews and others — live in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

These minorities and groups have settled in Bulgaria at different times.

The Turks settled in Bulgaria at the time of its conquest, at the end of the 4th century, concentrating mainly in strategic districts and along strategic roads. During the following centuries, especially in the 18th century, the Turks continued to settle in Bulgaria. Owing to strategic considerations at the time of the Russo-Turkish wars, the Turkish state increased the colonisation of eastern and north-eastern Bulgaria. After Bulgaria's liberation from Turkish yoke in 1877 and 1878 the reverse process — emigration of the Turks — began and has continued up to the present time at various rates.

The Gypsies settled in Bulgaria soon after the Balkan peninsula was conquered by the Turks.

The Jews came at several different times and settled exclusively in the towns.

A small number of Armenians had lived in the country before its conquest by the Turks. Later an additional 20,000 Armenians, fleeing from cruel persecution and mass extermination in Turkey, also arrived in the country. The Jews and the Armenians, living exclusively in the towns, have the highest culture of the minorities.

The Turks and the Gypsies are more backward in comparison. The Turks live pre-eminently in the villages and are peasant farmers. The Gypsies live both in the villages and in the towns of Bulgaria. They are farmers, factory workers, smiths, musicians, basket weavers, shoeshine men, porters etc. The backwardness of the Turks in the past resulted from the nationalist policy of

the monarcho-fascist governments and the religious fanaticism instilled in them by reactionary hodjas*) and Turkish emissaries.

Before September 9, 1944, illiteracy among the Turks and the Gypsies exceeded 70 per cent.

The working Turks, Gypsies, Jews and others, together with the Bulgarian people, had to bear the hardships imposed on them by the monarcho-fascist regimes in Bulgaria. In addition, the Bulgarian fascist rulers created racial laws after the Nazi pattern which more or less deprived the various minorities of their rights. They supported a number of nationalistic organisations whose task was to instil in the Bulgarian people racism and anti-semitism. The minority organisations were banned. The Gypsies had no schools of their own, the Jewish schools were closed down, while the Turkish schools existed only formally.

During this dark period, the struggle of Bulgaria's progressive forces to crush the fascist domination was the only salutary path toward the social and national liberation of the working minorities. To the call of the Bulgarian Communist Party for armed resistance many fighters from among the minority groups responded.

After the establishment of the People's Government on September 9, 1944 the minorities were granted full political, economic and cultural rights. The abolishment of all emergency laws directed against the minorities was already proclaimed in the Programme of September 17, 1944.

Congresses and conferences of the national minorities were convened. They endorsed the change brought about on September 9, 1944, and gave their support to the Fatherland Front for the establishment of democracy in Bulgaria. They took an active part in the public and political life of the country. Their representatives in Parliament, side by side with the Bulgarian people's representatives, voted for the new people's Constitution of Bulgaria, which contains special articles guaranteeing their rights and liberties. Today the minorities take part in the administration of the country through a large num-

*) Turkish priests.

ber of people's councillors, assessors, etc. The number of minority schools has trebled. Courses for the liquidation of illiteracy among Turks, Gypsies and others were opened. Hundreds of amateur artistic activity groups were formed. The People's Government provided special aid and health care for the poor members of the minorities, who were neglected during the fascist regime.

The minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who together with the whole Bulgarian people went through the trials of fascism, are actively co-operating with the People's Democratic Government and are working for the realisation of the government measures. In the building of socialism in Bulgaria they see the building of their own happy future.

Together with the other minorities, the Turks also took the road to socialism. But this was not to the liking of Turkish reactionary circles in Ankara — exponents of American and British imperialist policy against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. They intensified their propaganda against the People's Republic of Bulgaria, with the purpose of creating moods hostile to socialist construction and the People's Government among the Turkish minority, so that they could use it in their conquistadorial plans. In the general course of this campaign they were constantly urging the Turks in Bulgaria to emigrate to Turkey. By speculating with the religious and national feelings of the Turkish minority, this campaign, intensified by the propaganda of the American agents acting under the instructions of the Turkish consular authorities in Bulgaria, created a desire among some members of the minority to emigrate to Turkey.

The Turkish Government, however, which has never really meant to receive its countrymen from Bulgaria, is now hindering their emigration and went so far as to close the frontier, after enticing them for many years to emigrate. On the other hand, it is falsely accusing the Bulgarian Government of forcing the Turks to emigrate and of suppressing the rights and freedom of the minorities in Bulgaria.

The charges of the Turkish Government are in absolute contradiction to the facts.

The Bulgarian Government is not forcing the Turks to emigrate. Observing the Convention of 1925 it aids all those wishing to emigrate to do so, just as it helped in every way all Armenians and Jews wishing to emigrate to Soviet Armenia and Israel. The minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria enjoy full political, national and religious freedom. They see the difference between their situation before September 9, 1944, when they were deprived of rights, and the situation in which they find themselves today. They are convinced by experience that the freedoms granted them by the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria are not a mere written text, but a reality of the people's democratic system.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The monarcho-fascist governments carried out a policy of discrimination against the national minorities and ethnic groups. Only an insignificant number of wealthy Turks, Armenians, Jews and others, who actively cooperated with the monarcho-fascist governments in oppressing and plundering the national minorities, enjoyed the benevolence of the Government.

To implement their predatory policy and to divert the attention of the Bulgarian people from their struggle for liberation, the monarcho-fascist governments tried to stir up contempt and hatred toward the minorities, to poison the consciousness of the working people with the ideology of nationalism, at the same time depriving the minorities of rights.

Their right to form minority organisations and to publish minority newspapers and other printed material was restricted. During the period of open fascist dictatorship these rights were completely curtailed.

Members of the minority groups had no access to state and social positions.

The opportunity of freely exercising their right to vote was taken away from them. On election days, through pressure and threats, the Gypsies and the Turks were forced to vote for the government candidates.

No care was taken for the economic improvement of the districts populated with a considerable number of minority groups.

The tobacco producers and especially the Turkish peasants, tobacco producers, were robbed by the wholesale tobacco dealers who declared as defective some quantities of good tobacco and paid exceptionally low prices. The Turkish population was charged with arbitrary fines by

state and municipal officials, by policemen, forest guards and others.

Years on end the working Jews lived under the oppression of racial discrimination and violence on the part of the bourgeois governments and the chauvinist and anti-semitic organisations supported by them. Their situation became particularly grave after the monarcho-fascist government hitched Bulgaria to fascist Germany.

On January 23, 1941, the National Assembly, obedient tool of the German occupiers, voted the «Law on Defence of the Nation» which actually outlawed the Jews. Under article 21st of this law persons of Jewish origin were not allowed to become Bulgarian citizens, to vote or be elected, to hold state, municipal or other government positions, as well as positions in private law organisations, to marry persons of Bulgarian origin, to hire Bulgarians as house help, under any form whatsoever etc.

But this chauvinist policy of the monarcho-fascist governments remained alien to the Bulgarian people, who were also deprived of rights. In spite of the anti-minority propaganda, no feeling of hatred or contempt toward the national minorities could be created among the Bulgarian working people. The Bulgarian people openly expressed their sympathies toward them and protest against the policy of the government.

Thus when on the demand of the Hitlerites, the sending of the Jews to the extermination camps in Poland was being prepared, numerous petitions, protest telegrams and letters were sent to the Government by the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Fatherland Front, then working underground, as well as by a series of other mass organisations and individuals. A wave of indignation rose among the whole Bulgarian people and the Jews were saved from extermination.

This is how David Jeroham, leader of the Jewish delegation* to the International Jewish Congress in Atlantic City near New York in 1945 expressed the gratitude of his fellow-nationals to the Bulgarian people when speaking to representatives of the press:

* The delegation was not admitted into the USA by the American Government.

«The delegation will not conceal the fact that if the Jews of Bulgaria have not been physically destroyed by the fascists through a forced expatriation to Poland, as their unfortunate Aegean and Macedonian fellow-nationals, they owe it exclusively to the humane feelings of the Bulgarian people.

«It must be known in the United States, that this is due to the spontaneous reaction and counteraction of the socially conscious Bulgarian citizens to the fiendish intentions of the fascists.»

One of the many Jews transferred to Palestine by force before September 9, 1944, wrote the following in an open letter from Jerusalem:

«Before my departure my house was filled with lovely flowers brought by my Bulgarian friends. On my way to Istanbul, some Bulgarians whom I met on the train and who were complete strangers to me showed such sympathy and consideration for my family and myself that we were moved to tears.

«I was greatly stirred by scenes of devotion and affection.

«I am grateful to the Bulgarian people who in their great majority showed humaneness and even heroism in their attitude toward us.»

On June 24, 1941, the Bulgarian Communist Party issued an appeal to the Bulgarian working people for armed resistance against the fascist occupiers and their Bulgarian lackeys.

The most devoted sons of the working class, the peasantry and the progressive intelligentsia left their homes and arms in hand fought for liberation from the fascist yoke. Working Turks, Armenians, Jews and others also took part in the struggle against the common enemy.

From only a few counties populated with considerable number of Turkish people 480 Turks participated, 34 of which were partisans, 96 political prisoners, 185 links. Among them were the partisans Hussein Suleymanov Moutkov, commander of the Gorsko-Slivovo detachment, Sevlievo county, Ahmed Karahassanov and Mehmed Feradov, known to the whole population of Gorsko-Slivovo, Azil Dervishev of Pleven county buried alive together with four of his Bulgarian comrades, Taxim Aliev, tobacco

worker who took to the mountains with three other members of his family and many others.

Twenty-five partisans and links of the Turkish minority were killed in Bourgas county; ten links were killed in Dobra Polyana village, Aytos county, and in Ruen village the police and gendarmerie set fire to five houses of Turkish links etc.

The Armenians also took part in the armed resistance against the German fascist occupiers, many of whom became great heroes, such as Hermina Razgratlyan (Sashka), Haratun Bohossyan, Garabet Hadjadoryan, Hagop Baronyan from the city of Stalin, who was drowned in the sea.

A thousand and hundred Jews were sent to concentration camps for anti-fascist activity and in 1944 alone, 44 youths were arrested in Haskovo, 50 in Chirpan, 40 in Plovdiv, 28 in Kyustendil.

Over 250 Jews participated in the partisan detachments. Some of them, such as Emil Shekerdjiisky, Shimon Ninyo and others held leading posts. One hundred and twenty-three Jewish partisans were killed.

Thus in the joint struggle against the Bulgarian fascists and the German occupiers friendship between the Bulgarian people and the minorities living in Bulgaria was consolidated. On September 9, 1944, the Bulgarian working people led by the Bulgarian Communist Party rose in armed uprising and thanks to the victorious Soviet Army overthrew the monarcho-fascist dictatorship and established a People's Democratic Government.

Georgi Dimitrov, the late leader of the Bulgarian people, characterised this turning point in the history of Bulgaria as follows:

«September 9 opened a new period in our history — a period of real Bulgarian democracy, the period of the Fatherland Front. This new period is characterised not only by the fact that a fascist government was replaced by a democratic government. In reality on September 9, not only a change of government was effected but a profound change of the system itself.»

A system of genuine people's democracy was established. The arbitrary oppression of the Turks, Jews, Armenians, and Gypsies was done away with. They became fully-fledged citizens of new People's Democratic State.

As early as September 9, 1944, in the local Fatherland Front committees, together with Bulgarians, a great number of minority representatives took part in consolidating the People's Government.

Minority commissions were constituted with the National Council of the Fatherland Front. They took it upon themselves to help the People's Government in settling a series of questions concerning economic, cultural and political development of the national minorities and the ethnic groups.

By implementing a policy alien to national inequality and oppression, a policy of equalising and equally observing the interests of all nationalities in Bulgaria, the Fatherland Front Government enabled the minorities to take an active part in the government of the country together with the Bulgarians.

Thus people's representatives of all national minorities — Turks, Jews, Armenians, and Gypsies — participate in the legislative work of the National Assembly.



A Gypsy woman from Sliven votes in the election for People's Councillors on May 15, 1949

Together with the Bulgarians, 2,200 Turks, 159 Gypsies, 79 Jews, 83 Armenians etc. sit as people's councillors in the district, county and local People's Councils.

When we take into account the thousands of Turks, Gypsies, Armenians, Jews and others who are members of the Commissions attached to the People's Councils we shall have a full picture of the vast participation of the minorities in the country's Government.

In this way one of the basic rights of all Bulgarian citizens guaranteed by art. 3 of the Dimitrov Constitution — «All citizens of the People's Republic who are over 18 years of age irrespective of sex, national origin, race, religion, education, profession, social status or material situation are eligible to vote and be elected» — was translated into reality.

After September 9, 1944 granted for the first time the opportunity of participating on an equal footing with the Bulgarians in the social and political life of the Republic, the minorities entered political, cultural and other organisations. Over 130,000 Turks, Armenians and others are members of the Fatherland Front organisations. Thousands of Turks, Gypsies, Armenians and Jews are members of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, the Union of the Fighters against Fascism, the Dimitrov Union of People's Youth, the Union of the Bulgarian-Soviet Societies and other organisations.

The Turks who are members of the Bulgarian-Soviet Societies have organised 1,195 lectures, 12 conferences, 787 meetings, 2 rallies; they published 54 wall newspapers in the Turkish language and arranged 10 exhibitions, 12 stands etc.

This vast activity of the Bulgarian-Soviet Societies is an expression of their affection for the Soviet Union. On the other hand it is an indication of the growing political and cultural activity of the Turkish population in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Turkish women were given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of life in this country on an equal footing with other citizens. A turning point was effected in the life of the Turkish women.

At the same time the minorities enjoying the support of the People's Government formed their own national,

cultural, educational and other organisations which are carrying on vast activities.

According to art. 88 of the Dimitrov Constitution: «The citizens of the People's Republic are guaranteed freedom of the press, of speech, of assembly, of meetings and demonstrations.» For the exercise of this right of Bulgarian citizens, the Government put at the disposal of the minorities buildings, printing presses, paper and other facilities for the publishing of their own newspapers. Whereas the circulation of the largest Turkish newspapers in Turkey proper, with its population of 19,000,000 does not exceed 30,000 (the newspaper «Zafer» official organ of the ruling Democratic Party has the largest circulation in Turkey — 25,000 to 30,000 and the semi-official «Cumhuriyet» has a circulation of 20,000), the newspapers of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria have the following circulation: Yeni Isik (New Light) — 13,000; Halk Gencligi (People's Youth) — 10,000; Eilüleü Çocuk (September Child) — 30,000; Trudovo Delo — 30,000; and a fortnightly on social and political questions — 30,000. The Turkish newspapers in Bulgaria are published in the Turkish language. There are special pages published in the Turkish language in some Bulgarian provincial newspapers.

The Armenians publish the newspaper «Erevan» in their own language, the Gypsies «Nevodrom» (New Path), and the Jews «Jewish News.»

Liberated from the oppression of monarcho-fascism, the minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria are taking an active part in the social and political life of the country. Their participation in the Referendum for the Republic and the election for people's representatives, people's councillors and assessors was a testimony to their political activity. Relevant is the participation in the elections of the Turks and especially of the Turkish women who were very active in the propaganda apparatus and carried out a vast pre-election campaign.

Thus 77 Turkish women, three of whom were in charge of the propaganda centres, took part in the pre-election campaign in Kurdjali. Another 15 Turkish women took part in the campaign in Aytos, 10 in Rousse, 10 in Doulovo, etc. 122 pre-election meetings attended by



Minority newspapers published in the People's Republic of Bulgaria

several thousands of Turkish voters were organised in Kurdjali and Novi Pazar.

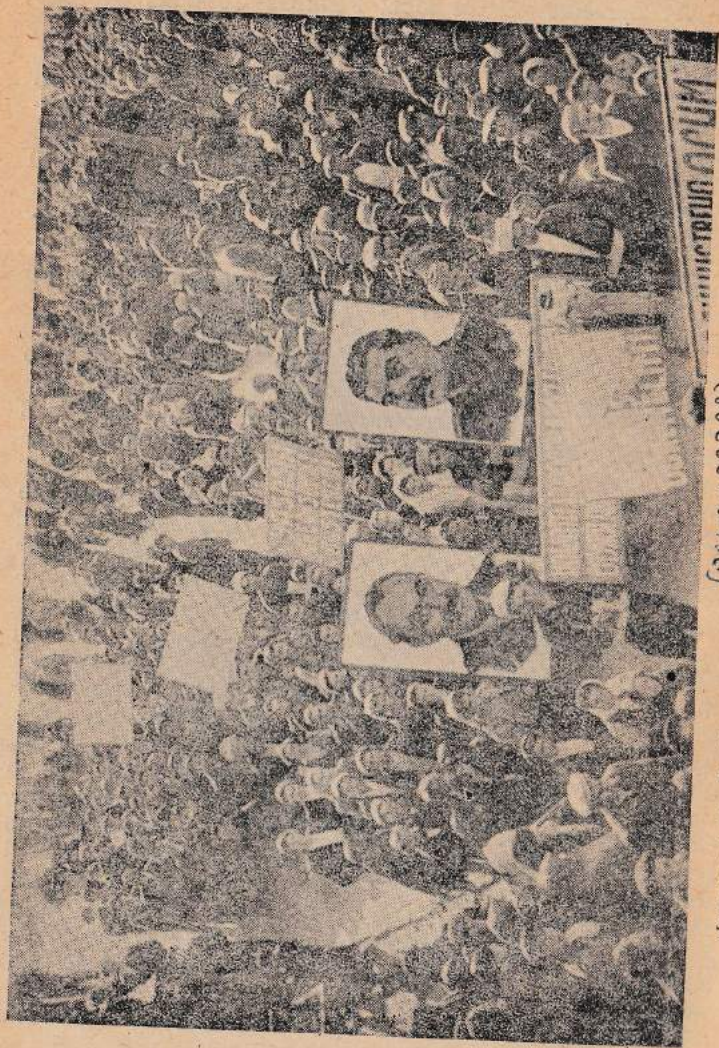
At the election for local People's Councils on May 15, 1949, and in the election for people's representatives and district people's councillors on December 18, 1949, the Turks thronged to the polls and elected their own people's representatives and people's councillors. In Tout-rakan, Silistra, Koubrat, Doulovo, Isparih and other counties the Turkish voters participated 100 per cent, 90 to 99 per cent of the total number of voters casting their ballot for the Fatherland Front.

Together with the whole Bulgarian people the minorities are taking an active part in the nation-wide peace movement in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Thousands of Turks, Gypsies, Jews and Armenians from all towns and villages of the country set their signatures to the Stockholm appeal, signed by over 6,000,000 Bulgarian citizens. The minorities took part in the numerous gatherings and meetings organised by the National Peace Committee. The Turkish, Gypsy and Armenian amateur art groups developed intense propaganda activity in the preparation for the second National Peace Congress. The minorities sent their best representatives, who together with the delegates of the Bulgarian people, actively participated in the work of the Congress.

Among them were the Turkish delegates Ismail Yurochkov, six times shockworker, Taxim Yumerov of the city of Stalin, bearer of the Order of Labour, Nizet Hassanova, youth leader from Bourgas, Hermin Mehmedova, teacher from Pleven, Myumyun Moustafov of the town of Momchilgrad, who was active in collecting signatures to the Stockholm appeal, Bramis Hassanov, of Koubrat, Chief Mufti*), Akif Osmanov, Bilyal Dourmazov, people's representative elected as a delegate to the Second World Peace Congress, the Gypsy Tair Salimov, Chief Rabbi Dr. Hananel, etc.

In their speeches at the Congress sittings the representatives of the national minorities expressed their firm will to fight for peace. At the same time they demonstrated their gratitude to the People's Government and their

* Mohammedan religious head



Meeting of the Turkish minority in Osmaniya (Osman Pazari) in 1950, to celebrate the Month of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship.

feelings of devotion to the standard bearer and mighty bulwark of peace, the Soviet Union. Bramis Hassanov, Turkish delegate from Koubrat declared in his speech:

«Since September 9, 1944, the Turkish minority in Bulgaria is enjoying full civil and political rights and full cultural freedom and equality.

«In all villages where there is a considerable Turkish population the presidents of the People's Councils are Turks. Turks hold leading positions in various mass and other organisations. The presidents of some co-operative farms are also Turks. Such is the situation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. For this reason the Turkish population in Bulgaria is fighting and will continue to fight for peace with all their strength. The whole Turkish population of the Deli Orman district set their signatures to the Stockholm Appeal. We, the working Turkish and Bulgarian people in our part of the country declare to the Congress that we stand firmly in the front of peace headed by the great Soviet Union...»

The People's Government does not only ensure full freedom and equality of rights to all citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, but guided by the basic principles of People's Democracy it planned and carried out a series of practical measures, actively helping the cultural and political development of the minorities.

ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

The all-round social, political and cultural upsurge of the Bulgarian people and the national minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria was effected in the conditions of complete economic liberty and all-round aid of the working people on the part of the People's Government.

Already at the very beginning the People's Democratic Government traced out and carried through a number of measures aiming at liquidating the economic inequality in which the overwhelming number of the national minorities were placed.

An end was put to the robbing of the Turkish tobacco producers. The ban prohibiting Bulgarian citizens of minority origin to form economic associations, to exercise certain professions and to participate in the economic life of the country on an equal footing with the Bulgarians was lifted. All citizens of the Republic were supplied with ration goods and articles without any discrimination. Special quotas and rations were allotted to the Turks for their religious festivals.

All property questions which had resulted from anti-semitic persecutions were settled by a special ordinance on March 2, 1945. In spite of the existing financial difficulties owing to the plundering of the monarcho-fascist clique, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria gave great sums in compensation for Jewish property which could not be restored, and special loans were granted to those who were in a difficult economic situation.

The People's Democratic Government, guided by the principle that no people can be really free if they are economically dependent and destitute, provided consider-

able sums from the national budget for improving the welfare of the population.

By the agrarian reform, land was distributed among 12,700 Turkish families with little or no land, in Deli Orman, Dobrudja and elsewhere.

Lots of land for building homes and other buildings were distributed among 2,500 Turkish families. In Koubrat and Doulovo counties alone 5,500 Turkish families received 3.75 to 12.5 acres of land.

Over 190 klm. narrow gauge lines and 385 klm. railway lines were laid in the districts with a considerable Turkish population. Several thousand kilometres of new highways and village roads were built and repaired. New auto lines were opened in Deli Orman, Dobrudja and the Eastern Rhodope ensuring speedy and prompt connection between the separate populated places in those districts, as well as between those places and the larger administrative centres. Today in these designated districts 24 auto lines are functioning for the use of the Bulgarian and Turkish population.

In this way far off and neglected places inhabited by a considerable number of Turks have been connected with the rest of the country. These new communication lines aided the economic and cultural development of these districts.

Parallel with this the People's Government extended the network of electric power stations and began building new such stations for the electrification of districts populated with a considerable number of Turks for the improvement of their living conditions and economic status. Prior to September 9, 1944, there was not a single place inhabited predominantly by minorities, which was supplied with electricity. Dozens of such places have since been electrified. The plan provides for the extension of this electrification to other inhabited places.

The Government equipped a number of experimental farms in Deli Orman and Dobrudja. The farmers were supplied with artificial fertilisers, seeds, agricultural equipment etc. These cares as well as the building of thousands of kilometres of irrigation canals in the dry districts of Dobrudja increased the yields per unit area and raised the standard of living of the Bulgarian and

Turkish population in the grain producing zones. Modern saw mills in the lumber producing regions were built and a series of measures improving the life and means of livelihood of the Bulgarian and Turkish population of the mountainous regions were carried out with funds provided from the state budget.

The waterless districts of Deli Orman and Dobrudja were deliberately left without any care by the monarchofascist governments before September 9, 1944. During the seasons of intense work in the fields the people were compelled to waste a great deal of time and resources to bring water from a distance of dozens of kilometres. The population's supply with water in these inhabited places presented a problem for the solution of which the People's Government has spent hundreds of millions of leva.

In only five years 130 inhabited places with a considerable Turkish population were provided with an up to date water supply system, which was almost as much as all that which was accomplished in this respect in the past 70 years.

As a result of the constant cares on the part of the People's Government for the economically backward zones with a considerable Turkish population, the latter are making progress in their economic development along with the general economic upsurge of this country. The incomes of the people are increasing. Their material well-being and living conditions are constantly improving.

In Koubrat county, in the villages with a considerable Turkish population over 300 Turkish houses to the value of 53,000,000 leva have been built during the last three or four years; in Kroumovgrad county 432 houses to a total value of over 155,000,000 leva; in Kurdjali county, 259 houses; in Isparih alone, 80 houses to the value of 60,000,000 leva etc. have been built.

Housing construction is being constantly extended. New spacious and hygienic houses are replacing the old Turkish unhygienic and dilapidated houses.

The state allocated the necessary construction materials such as tiles, cement, wooden construction materials, nails etc. at fixed prices for these constructions, as well

as for the building of Turkish schools, public reading rooms, mosques and others.

In order to meet the growing needs of the population the Government increased the production of mass consumer goods.

Thus the production of cotton textiles was increased two and a half times as compared with 1939, of woollen textiles almost twice etc. In 1950 the production of foods and consumer goods was increased as compared with 1939 as follows: flour 64 per cent, sugar 170 per cent, tinned foods 36 per cent, soap 28 per cent etc.

The supply of the population is being increasingly improved.

A great number of new shops have been built in the inhabited places with a considerable Turkish population in order to satisfy the growing need for the increased circulation of goods for mass consumption and food products, such as flour, butter, rice, beans, meat, soap, tinned foods, construction materials, textiles, glass, etc. Thus in a number of villages in Kurdjali county 24 new co-operative shops have been built; in Sveshtare village alone 3 shops to a value of over 600,000 leva, in Shishmanovo village two new shops, in Zavet village four shops.

There is no unemployment in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The working class and the working peasantry freed from economic oppression and exploitation are laying the economic and cultural foundations of socialism with great enthusiasm.

Whereas the number of Bulgarians, Turks, Gypsies, Jews and Armenians engaged in industry increases annually (in 1949 alone the working class in the People's Republic of Bulgaria increased by 50,000 persons), there are over 2,000,000 unemployed and partially employed in Turkey leading a miserable existence.

The newspaper «Kudret» writes about the grave economic situation of Turkey «aided» under «the Marshall Plan»:

«No one can deny the fact that the misery of the workers has reached its highest degree. The workers live in real shacks and their diet is meagre. Their children go about in rags and there is no guarantee that the situation will alter.»

The Turkish magazine «Yagmur ve Toprak», describing the situation of the peasants, wrote that the peasant is the slave of the landlord and is absolutely subjected to him «together with his daughter and his horse.»

The minorities, especially the Gypsies and Turks, who were treated by the governing circles during the years of fascism as inferior people and had to perform the hardest physical labour, today take part together with all Bulgarian citizens in the overall advance for the development of industry and agriculture. Having convinced themselves by their own experience of the advantages of co-operative farming the working peasants joined the co-operative farms. Together with the Bulgarian middle and poor peasants they work with enthusiasm and contribute their share to the general efforts for improving the welfare of the village. Many Turk co-operative farmers are members or presidents of the board of managers of the co-operative farms, brigaders or group leaders.

The working Turkish peasants participated actively in the building of socialism in the village. Their labour on the co-operative farms has considerably increased their incomes and has bettered their living conditions.

Yashar Mehmedov Kadikov became a member of the «May First» co-operative farm in Sevar village, Koubrat county, with 9 acres of land. He and his family of three worked 415 working days for which they received 1,940 kgs. of wheat, 1,655 kgs. of maize, 339 kgs. of sunflower seed, 96 kgs. of beans, 48 kgs. of cheese, 4.8 kgs. of wool and 62,000 leva. Veli Syuleimanov of the same co-operative farm, landless, worked 330 working days with his wife, for which he received 1,320 kgs. of wheat, 990 kgs. of maize, 210 kgs. of sunflower seed, 60 kgs. of beans, 4 kgs. of wool and 40,000 leva.

Aptora Rahim Fuchadjiev of Glozhevo village, Purvomai county, became a member of the co-operative farm with 2.5 acres of land and a family of three. His family worked 570 working days for which he received 1,140 kgs. of wheat, 220 kgs. of barley, 584 kgs. of maize, 285 kgs. of sunflower seed, 7 kgs. of wool, 20 kgs. of cheese and 86,000 leva.

Rahid Aliosmanov, shepherd in the co-operative farm of Kamenovo village, became a member without any land.



Turkish women members of the co-operative farm in Vransko village, Krumovgrad county, at work

He worked 348 working days for which he received 1,000 kgs. of wheat, 500 kgs. of maize, 9 kgs. of wool, 50 kgs. of milk, 10 kgs. of cheese, 20 kgs. of potatoes.

The Turks, the Gypsies, the Armenians and the Jews have aligned themselves in the first ranks of the labour front in a large number of industrial enterprises, plants, factories, in the co-operative crafts organisations, in a number of co-operative farms.

In the inhabited places of 15 counties populated with a considerable number of Turks there are over 200 universal co-operatives in which 22,733 Turks are members together with Bulgarian members. There also are 10 Turkish universal co-operatives with 3,705 members and 60 crafts co-operatives with 674 Turk members.

The Turkish newspaper «Gerçek» on September 29, 1950, published an interview with a 23-year old emigrant from Bulgaria in an article entitled «Where is the Paradise in Turkey?»

«I was a tailor in Bulgaria. When the Fatherland Front took the power and a new government was estab-

lished, I joined the co-operative with the rest of the tailors. We had to sew a coat in three days. When we worked harder and succeeded in sewing two coats in three days we were paid for two coats. I must admit that I was glad of it.»

Outstanding people, heroes of labour emerged from among the minorities: the Armenians Marzine Kyuchukyan, textile shockworker from a Pazardjik factory, Evtimya Bakakyan, textile worker from the «Vela Piskova» factory in Rousse, Arsha Hatchaduryan, textile worker from Plovdiv, Vahram Haratunyan, Magardich Halomyan, turners at the «Partam» factory in the city of Stalin, Armenak Manouhyan, Dikrapouhi Boronyan, David Davidyan and many others. The Armenian Giragos Almadjian from the «Vulkan» plant received the highest distinction in the country for rationalisation, — Dimitrov Prize Laureate First Degree; the Gypsies Lyuben Iliev, people's councillor Naiden Stoyanov, Iliya Grigorov, Georgi Arsov, rationalisers in the multiple drilling system in coal mining, Sava Dimitrov, a textile worker from Sliven and a member of the Plenum of the National Council of the Fatherland Front, Hero of Socialist Labour, bearer of one gold and two silver medals, Shefka Fenusova and Dimitar Roussev, shockworkers at the «Redjia» tobacco factory, Ali Kochev at the «Veriga» factory in Sofia and the Jews Jack Tadjer, textile technician, Todor Jacobs Maurer at the «Dimitrovo» works, Yako Juda Yulsary are bearers of high labour distinctions. Jack Nathan, Professor at the Sofia University, is a Dimitrov Prize Laureate.

For their high labour achievements a great number of Turks have been awarded with honorary titles, Golden and Silver Orders of Labour by the People's Government. Among them are 14 Turkish youths who distinguished themselves in the construction of the railway line Samuil-Isperih and dozens of workers, miners, craftsmen such as Ahmed Syuleimanov, worker at the «Georgi Dimitrov» vegetable oil refinery in the city of Tolbukhin. Halime Tahirova at the «Vela Piskova» factory in Rousse, Naim Ahmedov at the «Danube» mine, Kamen Shabanov Iliev, presser from the ceramics factory «Sila» in Brousartsi village, Lom county, Moustafa Bayramov Bankeliev, sorter of felled trees of Yakorouda village, Razlog county, weaver



Reshie Hassanova Ibrahimova, shockworker at the «Boris Hadjisotirov» factory in Samokov. Now she is studying at the textile school in Sliven

Nahida Abdoulova, from the «Georgi Dimitrov» factory in Gabrovo (who fulfilled her production plan for the first Five Year Plan on January 20, and started working on the second Five Year Plan on January 21), Rashie Hassanova Ibrahimova at the «Boris Hadjisotirov» factory in Samokov, Hassan Mehmedov Eminov, master-miner at the «Gurdurksa» mine, Bedrye Ibrahimova Yatsarova from the town of Silistra, Mehmed Mehmedov Koulov, president of the village council in Ostrovo village, Razgrad county and many others.



Turkish youth brigade at work on the local project in Zvezden village, Krumovgrad county.

Together with hundreds of thousands of Bulgarian youths, Armenians, Gypsies, Jews and over 30,000 Turks worked on many brigader projects.

In the conditions of mutual assistance between Bulgarian youth and the young people of the minorities the unity of the youth brigades was consolidated and their cultural level was raised through common labour, literacy courses, lectures, the collective reading and discussion of books.

The young people of the minorities displayed high labour qualities in their work and were honoured with many distinctions. Many young Turks, Gypsies, and Jews, who distinguished themselves, were sent to study in the higher educational institutes at state expense.

Under the tender care of the People's Government the minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria raised their material standard. From among them emerged new people with a new attitude toward labour, society and the state. Their national consciousness matured. They became fully fledged citizens of Bulgaria.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE

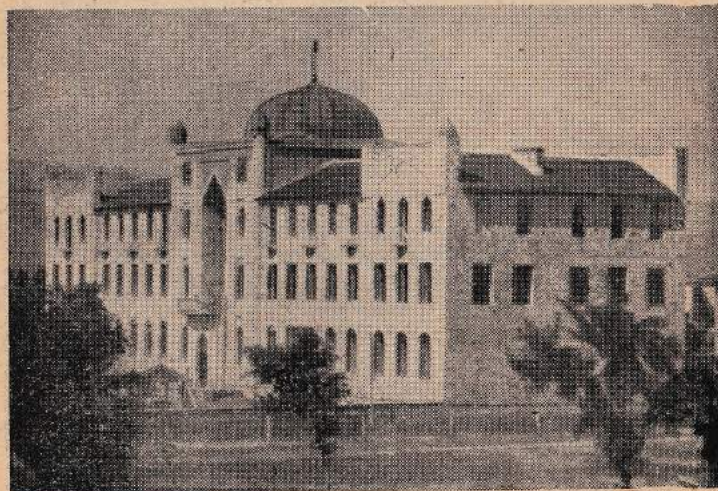
The minority schools in Bulgaria before September 9, 1944, were maintained by the minorities themselves which were not able to secure the elementary conditions necessary for scientific and pedagogical work.

The Turkish minority whose illiteracy exceeded 70 per cent was exceptionally backward. No care whatever was taken for the construction of school buildings for school equipment and for the training of qualified teachers. The school buildings were extremely unhygienic and unsuitable for school studies. The textbook composed by half-literate book dealers and merchants were not up to par with respect to scientific, pedagogic and methodical principles. The teachers were recruited from uneducated hodjas, filled with medieval fanaticism and other religious workers, 80 per cent of whom had only elementary and intermediate education and did next to nothing for the education of the Turkish children. They inculcated into the heads of the pupils only arabic religious texts, the meaning of which was unintelligible even to themselves. This school training not only failed to stimulate the mental development of the children, but by its scholasticism killed every creative thought in them. In many cases the students finished elementary school without even learning how to read and write.

After September 9, 1944, the position of the minority schools was radically changed. At its first special session in May 1945, the Supreme Council of Education discussed the question of the minority schools and proposed that a special programme be worked out for them, which was to give full opportunity to the students from the minorities to develop their abilities and build up their national culture, by means of planned school subjects, study material and the whole process of training.

By a law of October 12, 1946; amending the law on national education, the People's Government carried out a school reform. The upkeep of the Turkish schools was taken over by the state and the teachers became state employees. The Turkish teachers were placed on an equal footing with the Bulgarian teachers with respect to educational and official qualifications as well as with respect to pay.

Their school programme was conformed to that of the Bulgarian elementary schools. The Koran and religion are taught in the elementary and intermediate schools. Teaching is in the Turkish language. The elementary education covers all Turkish children from the age of 7 to 14. In 1946 the state has paid 60,000,000 leva in salaries to the Turkish teachers. Since 1947, the state has taken over the entire maintenance of the Turkish schools.



Turkish intermediate school (Medresse) in Kurdjali

The state has built a large number of schools for the Turkish minority. Thus a Turkish school to the value of 30 million leva has been built in the «Stolipinovo» ward in Plovdiv; a school to the value of 13 million leva in Navovitsa village, Krumovgrad county; a school to the value

of 11 million leva in Borino village, Devin county; a boarding house was built to the school for 12 million leva in Nedelino village, Zlatograd county etc.

A large number of Turkish schools have been repaired and made suitable for school studies. In the villages belonging to the Djebel village council, Momchilovgrad county, 11 new schools have been opened one of which is an intermediate school as well. Nine Turkish schools, five of which are intermediate schools, have been built in Kolarovgrad county. In the school year 1943—1944 there were 46 Turkish schools in the same county, and in 1950—1951 the number of schools rose to 70. 13 of which were also intermediate schools. 24 new schools have been opened in Tutrakan county.

The first pedagogical institute in Bulgaria for the training of Turkish teachers for the Turkish schools was established in the town of Stara Zagora in 1948. Monthly courses for the training of special Turkish teachers are conducted every year. At the end of 1948 special training courses for Turkish women teachers to conduct summer kindergartens for the children of the Turkish mothers engaged in farming were opened.

There is a Mohammedan religious school «Nyuvaab» in departments for the training of ecclesiastics, muftis, imams, hatibs and others. Though the church is an institution separate from the state, the «Nyuvaab» religious school received a subsidy of 5,500,000 leva for the 1949-1950 school year and the four religious intermediate schools — 2,000,000 leva.

The Ministry of Education shows great concern for the preparing of new up-to-date scientifically correct text-books for the Turkish schools. With the aim of improving the text-books published in 1945 the Ministry of Education held a National Conference on September 22, 1948, at which the question of writing and publishing of new text-books in the Turkish language was discussed. Representatives of the Turkish minority in Razgrad, Popovo, Kurdjali, Krumovgrad, Rousse, Sofia and other places took an active part in this conference.

Editors' commissions established for the purpose prepared text books in the Turkish language and 14 text books for the elementary and intermediate schools as well



Text-books in Turkish for the different grades of Turkish schools in the People's Republic of Bulgaria

as a primer for grown up illiterates. For the period from 1945 to 1950, 1,500,000 copies of text-books were published for the elementary and intermediate schools. They were printed despite the fact that the state publishing house was overloaded with work and lacked Turkish printworkers. Scientific terms were standardised in all text-books and new words taken from the contemporary literary Turkish language were used. The obsolete Arab and Persian words which have nothing in common with the Turkish spoken today and are incomprehensible to the students, were removed.

The following comparative table of the number of schools, pupils and teachers shows the development of the education of the Turkish minority:

	In 1943-44 School Year			In 1949-50 School Year		
	Schools	Students	Teachers	Schools	Students	Teachers
1. Children's	—	—	—	20	755	22
2. Elementary	397	35,253	802	1,018	84,917	2,454
3. Intermediate	27	2,082	69	157	13,692	511
4. High Schools	—	—	—	1	618	21
5. Teachers' Institutes	—	—	—	1	284	20
Evening Schools	—	—	—	2	110	9
6. Primary	—	—	—	2	110	9
total	424	37,335	871	1,199	100,376	3,037

In six years, from the school year of 1943-1944 to 1949-1950, the number of schools has trebled. The number of students in the same period has increased three times and the number of teachers more than three times.

In the school year of 1949/50, 93 student dormitories and 1,416 student canteens were organised in which 120,820 Bulgarian children and children of the minorities, i. e., 14 per cent of all students in the elementary schools, receive their food free of charge. For the upkeep of the dormitories and canteens 1,200,000,000 leva are spent yearly. In the same school year a dormitory with a canteen was established at the Turkish pedagogical institute. The Ministry of Education has spent 5,620,255 leva for its complete upkeep (rent, food, heating, electricity, etc.).

In the populated places where the Turkish population

is small, the children study in Bulgarian schools. A large number of Turkish young people are studying in Bulgarian high schools. 200 Turks, the majority of whom are scholarship students, are studying at the higher educational institutions.

Prior to September 9, 1944, the Gypsy minority had no schools of their own; an insignificant proportion of the children studied in Bulgarian schools. After September 9, 1944, six Gypsy schools with 744 students and 24 teachers were opened in Bulgaria. Because of the fact that the Gypsy minority lives scattered all over the country, the majority of the Gypsy children are studying in Bulgarian elementary, intermediate and secondary schools. For the first time the Gypsies are offered the opportunity to study at higher educational institutions. Twelve Gypsy students six of whom are scholars, are studying at Sofia universities.

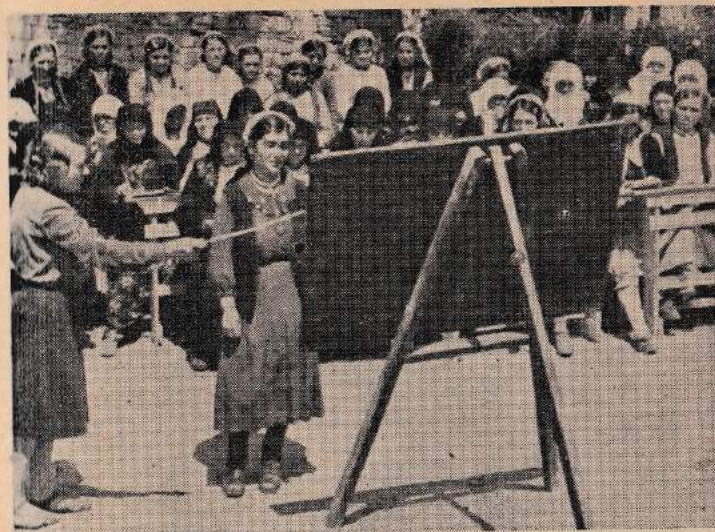
The Jewish children get their education at Jewish and Bulgarian schools. The Jewish minority has the highest culture and on account of that the percentage of the Jews studying in the higher educational institutions is the highest, 439 Jews, 34 of whom have scholarships, are studying at the universities.

The Armenian minority has 21 schools with an enrolment of 1,250 children. Many students of Armenian origin receive their education in Bulgarian elementary, intermediate and high schools. 102 Armenian students are studying at the higher educational institutions.

The People's Government is doing its utmost to liquidate illiteracy and raise the cultural level of the citizens. The literacy courses are accessible both to Bulgarians and the minorities.

On the initiative of the National Council of the Fatherland Front, of the Ministry of Education, the Central Union of Public Reading Rooms, the Dimitrov Union of People's Youth and other mass organisations, literacy courses were organised all over the country. During 1949-1950 alone, 1,758 courses for illiterates were held at which 17,651 Turks and 2,196 Gypsies learned how to read and write in their mother tongue.

The campaign for liquidating illiteracy is not over. It will continue with further impetus. Final liquidation of



An open air literacy course for Turkish women in Yonkovo village, Isperih county

illiteracy in the People's Republic of Bulgaria will take place by the end of 1953.

The cares of the People's Government for the education of the minority groups translate into reality art. 79 of the Constitution, according to which «National minorities have the right to be educated in their mother tongue, and to develop their national culture. Elementary education is compulsory and free of charge.»

«The right to education is guaranteed by schools, educational institutes, universities, as well as by scholarships, student hostels, material and other aid, and special encouragement for gifted students.»

The assertions of the Turkish Government that the Turkish minority in Bulgaria was allegedly in a grievous situation are in complete contradiction to reality. They sound all the more surprising when one bears in mind the official data of the situation in Turkey as published by the Turkish Government according to which 80 per cent of the population in Turkey do not know how to read or

write, there are not even elementary schools in 50 per cent of the inhabited places and of the children liable to obligatory education scarcely 55 per cent are studying in the schools.

The Bulgarian People's Democratic Government is doing a great deal for the cultural advance of the minorities, by organising libraries, theatres, public reading rooms, cinemas and others.



Gypsy students of the Dimitrov city district in Sofia receive free lunch at the school canteen

Thirty-five books, pamphlets and plays in the original or translations, printed in a total of 94,000 copies, were published in the Turkish language to meet the growing cultural needs of the Turkish minority.

In inhabited places with a considerable minority population, a great number of reading-rooms were opened and equipped with the assistance of the local organs of the People's Government and of the political and mass organisations. Armenian and Jewish reading-rooms and libraries were opened in Sofia, Plovdiv, Rousse, Stalin, Bourgas and other towns.

The Jewish minority reading-room «Emil Shekerdzhiski» in Sofia rewarded by the Government for its exten-



Turkish amateur group in Rousse, which took part in the festival held in Sofia in 1949

sive cultural and educational activity, holds a leading place among the reading-rooms of the Jewish minority. The reading room members have organised a choir of 140 persons, twice rewarded, a symphony orchestra of 40 persons, a literary circle and a dramatic group producing two new plays every year. The «Emil Shekerdzhiski» reading-room has a library of more than 15,000 volumes. The Jewish reading-rooms and libraries at the towns of Stalin, Vidin, Kyustendil, Rousse and Plovdiv are also amply supplied with fine books.

In the districts with a considerable Turkish population, there are 818 reading-rooms. Together with the Bulgarians thousands of Turkish men and women are members of them. For aiding the reading-rooms of these districts, for their equipment with cinema projectors and radio systems, for the purchase of books, for maintenance and for the building of new reading rooms, in addition to the funds allocated by the Committee for Science, Art and Culture and by the local People's Councils, the Union of People's Reading-rooms allocated grants and long-term interest-free loans amounting to 118,145,000 leva.

The members of the reading-rooms and the cultural, educational and mass organisations have formed a great number of amateur art groups which grow and consolidate under the care of the People's Government. Today in the People's Republic of Bulgaria there are 20 amateur art groups (choirs, orchestras, dance groups) and one Armenian amateur theatre in Sofia, as well as hundreds of Turkish amateur groups in the towns of Kolarovgrad, Razgrad, Turgovishte, Kazanluk, Kurdjali, Novi-Pazar, Isperih and in other parts of the country. The Turkish women from a number of towns and villages formed their own amateur art groups. These groups give their own performance of Turkish folk songs and dances which are received with interest by the Turkish as well as by the Bulgarian population. The Gypsies have organised amateur art collectives in the towns of Vidin, Stalin, Plovdiv, Sliven, Stara-Zagora and elsewhere.

The People's Government and its local organs encourage the activity of the minority art groups and aid them with subsidies.

In 1948, at the review of amateur art activity the Armenian «Erevan» amateur art group and the Turkish amateur group of Kolarovgrad were awarded prizes.

The Armenian Dance Ensemble of Kolarovgrad was aided by the town People's Council with the sum of 200,000 leva and the Gypsy art group in the town of Stalin received aid of 2,700,000 leva from the People's Council in 1950. The art groups at the Turkish reading-room in Kurdjali, Novi-Pazar, Isperih, Aytos were aided by the Committee of Science, Art and Culture with 3,250,000 leva.

On the initiative of the Government and with funds allocated by the state, a Gypsy theatre «Roma» was founded in Sofia in March 1948 — the second Gypsy theatre in the world, after the Moscow Gypsy theatre. Its repertoire is constantly improving and its staff is becoming more experienced and qualified. Theatre «Roma» receives annual subsidies from the Government, totalling 8 million leva for the three years since its foundation.

The amateur theatre and artistic groups, the dance groups of the Turks, Gypsies, Armenians and others give a large number of performances all over the country.



Scene from the play «Gypsy Rhapsody» presented by the «Roma» Gypsy Theatre in Sofia

The «Roma» Gypsy theatre gave 149 performances in Sofia attended by over 65,000 spectators. It visited 92 towns and villages in the country where it gave 177 performances.

The dramatic groups of the «Erevan» Armenian organisation have produced a total number of 150 plays by Armenian, Bulgarian and Soviet authors, and the Armenian choirs of Plovdiv, Sofia, Stalin, Haskovo, Kolarovgrad, Sliven, Bourgas have given 53 concerts in the towns mentioned above.

With the purpose of raising the culture level of the minority population especially that of the Turkish population, a large number of cinemas were opened and equipped with apparatus in Dobrudzha and Deli-Orman, with funds provided by the state. The number of cinemas in the towns and villages with a considerable Turkish population has more than trebled after September 9, 1944.

In addition to this the People's Government organised cultural campaigns in the districts with a considerable Turkish population. Cultural brigades from the towns visited the villages in Dobrudzha, Deli-Orman and south-eastern Bulgaria many times. Travelling dramatic groups of actors from the National Theatre and the theatres of Rousse, Stalin, Stara Zagora and Plovdiv, art groups and mobile cinemas gave large number of spectacles, plays, concerts and numerous films for the Turkish minority.

Aided by the People's Government the minorities gave full vent to their creative powers. A rich cultural life hitherto unknown started among them. Outstanding representatives of the minorities — musicians, writers, actors, scientific workers and others — work together with Bulgarian people of science and art for the creation of progressive culture and a new realist art.

Today the Turkish minority has its own poets and writers — M. Dzhon, Bilazeloglu, Azinlikçi, Malaoglu who depict in their works the successes and strivings of their fellow countrymen. The Government does a great deal to create favourable conditions for their work. At the same time cultural workers in Turkey are being subjected to restrictions and persecution. The Turkish authorities killed the greatest Turkish writer Sabahatin Ali, and have

kept in jail for twelve long years the world-known poet and fighter for peace, Nazim Hikmet.

Never before have the minorities enjoyed such great opportunities for free and cultural life as now. In the conditions of close collaboration among the Bulgarian people and the national minorities, enjoying full economic, political and cultural equality of rights, new people emerge, prejudices are torn down, solidarity among the working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria is being forged.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria obligates the state to «take care of national health by organising and directing health services and institutes, to propagate health education among the people and pay special attention to the physical culture of the people.» (art. 81) This constitutional stipulation is a leading principle in the health policy of the People's Government.

The minorities of Turkish and Gypsy origin are the object of special attention. The former regimes never provided any health care for them and they were at a very low level of health and physical state before September 9, 1944.

In the districts with a considerable Turkish population and especially in the villages the health services were extremely inadequate.

In those backward districts the People's Government established hospitals and health centres, opened numerous polyclinics, dispensaries, maternity homes, nurseries and other health institutes. The Bulgarian physicians and other medical staff launched a campaign to liquidate the health backwardness of the Turks and Gypsies. Medical men took the place of the old witch doctors and the prayers of the *hodjas* were replaced by the newest medicines and the most-up-to-date medical technique.

Up to September 9, 1944, in the towns and villages with a considerable Turkish population there were 14 inadequately equipped hospitals with 1,610 beds and not a single polyclinic. Despite the great post-war difficulties in only 5 years the Fatherland Front Government increased the number of hospitals to 19 with 2,439 beds and supplied them with modern hospital equipment. It also opened 14 polyclinics, staffed with a large number of specialists. It is worth noting here that the Turkish state hos-

pitals dispose of only 2,000 beds for the needs of its 19 million population.

Conditions were created for guarding the health of the Turkish village population. 291 inter-village health services have been provided for this purpose. Some of them will be transformed into village hospitals in 1951. The inter-village services are assisted in their work by seven medical brigades which give quick and efficient medical aid to the population.

The medical cadres serving the Turkish minority are constantly increasing in number. At present 612 physicians, 68 dentists, 110 midwives and 269 nurses are working in the districts with a considerable Turkish population. In the last six years the number of physicians has increased by 80 per cent, that of midwives by 200 per cent.

In the past Deli Orman and South eastern Bulgaria were centres of epidemics and community disease. For combatting them the Government created medical anti-epidemic stations, a thing non-existent in the past. At present four stations of this kind are functioning and in the near future their number will be increased to 14. 26 autoclaves, 7 mobile baths, great quantities of insecticide and other supplies have been sent to the districts mentioned above. 10,178,560 leva have been spent on para-typhoid fever preventive measures, on medicines, cotton, bandages etc. 7,645,000 leva have been paid to temporary public health workers in these districts. In carrying out these important measures and health campaigns the Bulgarian Red Cross has created a huge apparatus of regular and voluntary workers.

In the same district 26 dispensaries were established to combat tuberculosis. Planned struggle is waged against skin and venereal diseases. To this end special hospital departments staffed with qualified physicians were opened. In order to guard the population from venereal diseases, prophylactic measures are systematically applied along with extensive health education. Clinical and serum treatment is given to the sick. The travelling expenses and the treatment of all suffering from contagious skin diseases are paid by the state. The members of the minorities are also treated in all health institutes of the country.

By the social insurance law physician's aid and medicines free of charge irrespective of nationality are secured to all workers and employees and their families. The sick workers and employees are entitled to paid leave. In 1949, the state spent 1,998,270,144 leva on medical care, against 82,201,638 leva in 1948.

In their vile propaganda against the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Turkish reactionary circles conceal these measures of the People's Government from the Turkish people and spread base slanders about «the mass extermination of the Turkish minority» which is allegedly deprived of rights and freedoms and left without any cares whatever.

Only a glimpse of public health work in Turkey suffices to disclose the utter demagoguery and evil designs of Turkish propaganda. In the programme declaration of the Government of May 29, 1950 before Parliament, Menderes, Prime Minister of Turkey, said: «It is a sad truth, that almost nothing has been done for health care, and especially for the health of our peasants.» The newspaper «Zafer» of August 11, 1950, wrote:

«The unhappy peasants of the Anatolian villages do not even know that there are physicians in Turkey. It is a mere accident if one remains alive in the remote parts of Turkey. Today medicines in Turkey are more expensive than the finest Paris perfume.»

Dr. Refat Artem wrote of the situation of mother and infant in Turkey in the newspaper «Vatan» of July 16, 1950: «It will make your hair stand on end if you could see how women bear babies in the villages. There are villages in which no midwife had set foot for the last 25 years. Pregnant women receive no help at all. Pale and sickly, they toil in the fields till the day of their delivery.» The picture is completed with the notes of Mahmud Makal, a village teacher in Anatolia: «The children are thin and timid with listless eyes and pale faces. . . While children must be plump and healthy, with rosy cheeks. Where can one find such children? Hardly 10 years of age, they already are exhausted and sad.» According to official information, 400,000 children die in Turkey every year.

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria the woman-mother is treated with special respect. The Constitution

provides for special labour protection and care for mothers and children. In this respect, there is no racial discrimination, no segregation based on national origin or social position.

The health-consulting stations secure daily care for the pregnant women and mothers from the minorities. Before and after the birth of the child they receive diapers, additional foodstuffs etc. Well furnished maternity homes render obstetric aid free of charge to all mothers. The working women of non-Bulgarian origin receive a three monthly paid leave before or after delivery on an equal footing with Bulgarian working women. When the mothers go to work, they leave their children in nurseries where they are taken care of by special nurses trained for the purpose. The Turkish children and all children of the other minorities are under the constant health care of the People's Government, on an equal footing with the Bulgarian children from the day of their birth.

The following table shows the health care of the People's Government for Turkish mothers and their children:

Facilities	to September 9, 1944		Planned for 1951
1. Maternity homes	1	118	139
2. Beds	15	699	742
3. Nurseries	1	30	45
4. Beds	30	850	1,000

One third of the state budget expenditures are allocated for health and cultural measures. The budgets of the local People's Councils also provide considerable sums for the health needs of the population. In six years over 1,500,000,000 leva have been spent on health projects in the districts with a considerable Turkish population. In towns and villages, where prior to September 9, 1944, no physicians had come whatever, health centres, nurseries, ambulatories have been built. The state allocated 8 million leva for building a health centre in Chorbadijsko village, Momchilgrad county and 5,800,000 leva for a health

centre in Fotinovo village in the same county. Over a period of 6 years, the health centres in these districts have been supplied with 67 new X-ray apparatuses and other medical equipment. For rendering first medical aid 25 new ambulance cars have been provided. The supply of the population with medicines is secured by 80 state chemists shops.

The state does a great deal for the promotion of physical culture among the minorities. For securing the material basis for sports among the Turkish youth, the following sports equipment has been distributed among them in 1950 alone: 2,300 foot-ball shoes, 4,000 foot-balls, volley-balls and basket-balls, 6,000 pairs of shorts and vests, 1,200 sports suits and other items. Millions are being allocated for building stadiums, sport grounds and facilities.

The conditions created by the People's Government for the development of physical culture, are inspiring the minorities' youth to engage in all kinds of sports. There are many minority foot-ball, volley-ball and other teams in the country, which take part in the contests organised by the Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. Turkish youth along with Bulgarian youth, are taking an active part in securing the physical culture badge «Ready for Labour and Defence».*) In the Kurdjali Turkish school alone 80 youths have won the badge.

The People's Government favours and encourages the traditional sports of the minorities. Every year, during the Mohammedan holidays, the Turkish minority organises mass wrestling matches. Some of the best Turkish wrestlers take part in the Republican contests.

By giving a mass character to sports and organising medical and health centres, the People's Government has raised the health standards of the population, as result of which epidemics were curtailed and community diseases restricted, while infantile mortality among the minority population was considerably reduced.

In the conditions of people's democracy the health of the citizens in the People's Republic of Bulgaria is constantly improving.

*) The bearer of this badge must have an elementary practical knowledge of skiing, swimming, cycling, rope climbing, first aid, etc.

SOCIAL CARE

The People's Democratic Government spares no efforts or resources to aid the victims of accidents, the war and fascism, the infirm and the invalids, and other citizens, irrespective of their nationality.

Thus, after the flood in Razgrad in 1947, 11,437,000 leva were spent on the building of houses for 186 Turkish families. In 1949, 223 new two-roomed apartments to the value of 33,450,000 leva were built in Dobrich for Turkish families, who had suffered from the flood. Within a period of six years 494 Turkish families in need received 46,701,618 leva.

In all cases of accidents the Bulgarian Red Cross gave prompt relief. It distributed clothes, food and medicines amounting to 420,000 leva to the Turks who had suffered from the flood in Razgrad. In six years the Bulgarian Red Cross spent 6,488,490 leva solely on clothes for the Turkish population. This year it organised a relief centre in Svilengrad for the Turkish emigrants who were not admitted into Turkey by the Turkish authorities. In October, 1950, 1,302,493 leva were spent for supplying these people with food, medicines, money etc.

In the past, the helpless, infirm and orphans were left to different «charities» which did nothing to alleviate their lot, but on the contrary humiliated them. The People's Government has organised special dormitories for ailing and infirm citizens of minority origin.

In April 1948, with the assistance of the Turkish mass organisation «Türk Evi», the Ministry of Labour and Social Care opened the first dormitory for old, ailing and infirm Turks in Rousse. To aid those blind and deaf-mute citizens of the minorities who are badly off, the People's Government has spent 5,047,400 leva, 3,504,400 leva of which were given only to 320 Turks.

The state gives special aid to citizens from the minorities who have suffered from fascism and the war, as well as to their families. Since September 9, 1944, 17,496,000 leva have been spent for aiding 2.253 Turks, Jews and Armenians.

Turks, Jews and Armenians who have suffered from fascism and war have been aided in the past six years since September 9, 1944.

	Turks	leva	Jews	leva	Armenians	leva
Monthly aid to families of killed and missing . . .	54	2,133,000	148	5,656,000	7	220,000
Aid to living fighters	42	615,000	48	577,000	5	70,000
Monthly scholarships to orphans	42	313,000	14	320,000	1	18,000
Money given to orphans and invalids	200	3,710,000	700	854,000	21	307,200
Various aids	30	48,000	10	21,000	1	1,000
Aid to citizens whose homes have been plundered	3	170,000	38	1,072,000	—	—
Clothes for infirm citizens and orphans	53	701,100	32	175,000	4	42,000
total	424	7,690,100	990	8,675,000	39	658,200

All citizens of the minorities have the right to a pension on an equal footing with Bulgarians. The National Assembly abolished the reactionary stipulation of the law for the farmers' pensions, which deprived the working people from the minorities of the right to a pension. This amendment of the law is of special importance for the Turks, bearing in mind that 85 per cent of them are farmers. By the amendment of the law, thousands of Turkish farmers received pensions.

The teachers of the minority schools were given equal salaries with teachers in Bulgarian schools. The time served by the teachers in the former private Turkish schools was recognised for the award of pensions.

The full equality of rights of the minority population with the rest of Bulgarian citizens was expressed in the care of the Government for the newly married and the families with many children. On May 18, 1945, the Nation-

al Assembly amended the existing law for large families, placing the Turks, Gypsies and other minority groups on an equal footing with the Bulgarians. On the basis of this law, the Ministry of Labour and Social Care gave loans to those newly married couples from the minorities who asked for such, as follows:

Married couples	Number	Sum
1. Turks	3,500	210,000,000
2. Gypsies	9,800	564,000,000
3. Others	1,500	81,000,000
total:	14,800	855,000,000

A fourth of the loan is remitted for every newly born child. Moreover, each of the newly married, the man as well as the woman, receives a grant of 15,000 leva from the office or enterprise where they are working.

For encouraging the birth rate 8,500,000 leva were granted to hundreds of large Turkish families by January 1, 1949. The large network of social welfare departments at the People's Councils guarantees aid to many additional Turkish and other families from the minorities. The People's Government gave family bonuses to the wages of workers and employees from the minorities, a privilege of which they were deprived before September 9, 1944.

Care for the growing generation constitutes an important part of the government undertakings. All conditions for education and rest have been secured for the children and young people of Bulgarian and minority origin.

Under the system of the People's Government Turkish children entered the kindergartens for the first time. Two permanent kindergartens accommodating 90 children and 4 seasonal kindergartens were opened — for the children of Turks engaged in tobacco manipulation.

In the past, when the working peasants went out into the fields, the children played in the dusty streets without any control, dirty and hungry. Such scenes are becoming rare nowadays. The Government and the local People's Councils are opening and furnishing summer kindergartens, where the children of the working people, neat and clean, spend the day. In 1948, 43 kindergartens,

accommodating 1,952 Turkish children were opened in Bulgaria. In 1949, their number rose to 66 with 2,639 children. In 1950, 3,200 Turkish children were taken care of in these kindergartens. The children are given nutritious food, they grow up and are educated under the care of their teachers in a cultured environment, while their parents work undisturbed in the fields and factories.

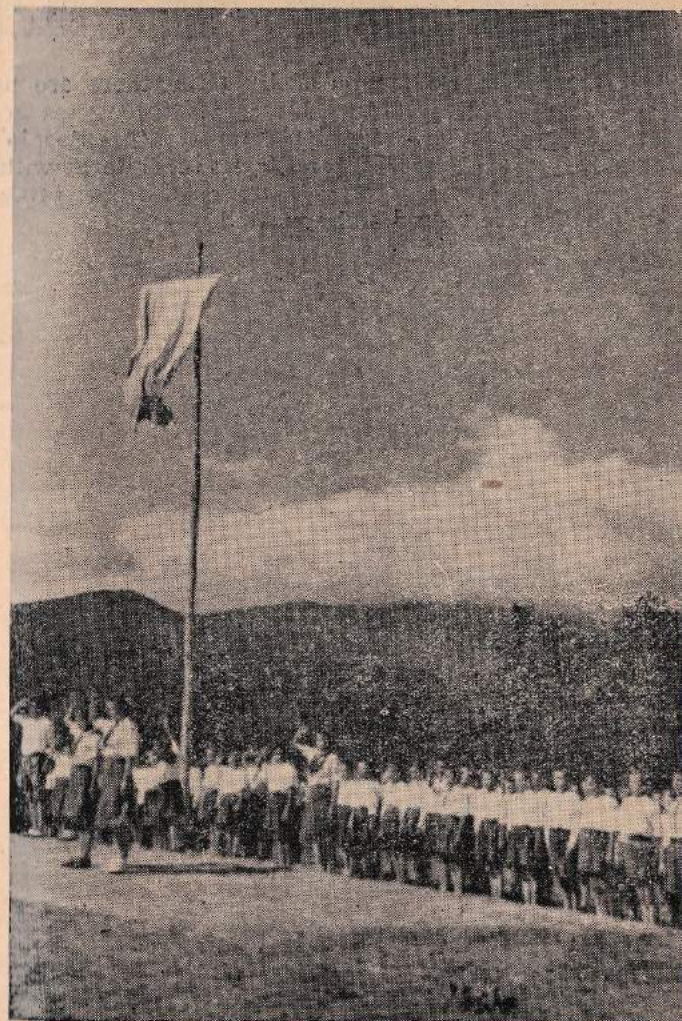
Special collections of children's literature have been published in Turkish for the children of pre-school age. In order to create cadres for the newly opened kindergartens, one hundred Turkish girls finished the special course for kindergarten teachers in 1949-1950.

The same care and attention is shown to the children of other minorities. There are two permanent kindergartens for Jewish children, and five for Armenians, which are conducted by teachers from the minorities. In the towns and villages, where the minority population is small in number, the children attend Bulgarian kindergartens on an equal footing.

Special rest homes have been organised in the mountain and sea resorts of the country for rest and restoration of the children's health. In 1949, several thousands of Turkish, Gypsy, Armenian and other children spent their holiday together with Bulgarian children and in special rest homes.

By its circular letter No. 149 of April 28, 1950, the Ministry of Education ordered the county People's Councils of towns with a Turkish minority population, to organise a special holiday period for Turkish children in the «Septemvriiche» camps and to organise special camps for Turkish children in places where conditions permitted. In the same year district rest homes for Turkish children were opened in the towns of Kolarovgrad and Aytos, ensuring rest for 400 Turkish children. 180 Turkish children spent their holiday at the rest homes of Preslav, 80 — in Novi-Pazar, 150 — in Ardino, 200 — in Assenovgrad, 283 — in Razgrad and dozens of other Turkish children in different resorts of the country.

In 1950, 180 Armenian children spent their holiday in Dryanovo. Many Turkish, Armenian, Jewish and Gypsy children spent their holidays together with Bulgarian children in mountain and sea resorts.



Turkish children at rest in the mountain resort at Lyulyakovo village, Aytos county

In the past, the minority children could not even dream of spending their holidays in summer resorts. Today they are on an equal footing with Bulgarian children and enjoy the cares of the People's Government.

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria, there are no more waifs and strays wandering in the streets, as are often to be seen in the capitalist countries. The People's Government supports special dormitories for children without any parents. In such homes, hundreds of orphans from the minorities are reared and educated.

.RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The religious citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria profess the Christian, (Eastern Orthodox, Catholic Armenian-Gregorian and Protestant) Mohammedan and Hebrew faiths. The greater number of Christians are Eastern Orthodox. The number of Catholics does not exceed 40,000 persons, of the Protestants 15,000 and of Armenian-Gregorians 20,000. Besides the Bulgarians, part of the Gypsies and some small ethnic groups are Orthodox. Almost all of the Catholics and Protestants are Bulgarians, and the Armenian-Gregorians — Armenians. The Mohammedan religion is professed by the Turks, part of the Gypsies and a number of Bulgarians from the Rhodope mountain, who had been forced to accept the Mohammedan religion in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Jews are of Hebrew religion.

In the past, the official and predominant religion in Bulgaria was the Eastern Orthodox religion. The other religions did not enjoy equal rights. In the last years of the fascist dictatorship, special measures were taken against them, which testified to the lack of religious «toleration». The nationalist and racial organisations, established officially, carried out hooligan excesses against Bulgarian citizens of non-Orthodox religion, defiled their churches (synagogues and mosques) and disturbed the religious services in them. The cases were not few when the celebration of Mohammedan and Jewish holidays was prohibited. The Bulgarian Mohammedans (Pomaks) were converted to Christianity by force. Injustices were committed with respect to properties belonging to religious communities, and especially properties belonging to the Mohammedan religious communities.

The radical changes which took place in all spheres of life in Bulgaria after the overthrow of the monarcho-

fascist government in 1944, also affected the question of religious freedom. This problem was solved according to the principle: «Everybody must be absolutely free to profess whatever religion he wishes, or not to recognise any religions.»

The People's Government restored the religious freedoms to all religions which in the past did not enjoy equal rights. The prayer homes closed down were opened again, and regular services were resumed in them. Injustices with regard to the property of the religious communities were done away with. The state aided the religious organisations to rehabilitate their neglected churches.



Conference of muftis from North Bulgaria, held in Kolarovgrad in 1949

In 1948, Nusbaum, General Secretary of the International Society for defence of religious freedom, in his letter to the director of religions in Bulgaria, wrote the following about the religious freedoms gained after September 9, 1944:

«I can declare in all earnest that at present for the small churches in Bulgaria there is greater religious freedom than before the war. This is, no doubt, due to the

fact, that no dominating church exists now, that all churches are treated equally and justly.»

The attitude of the People's Democratic Government toward religion and religious freedom is also expressed in the following texts of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

«All citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria are equal before the law.

«No privileges based on nationality, origin, religion and material status are recognised.

«Every preaching of racial, national or religious hatred is punishable by law (article 71)

«Citizens are guaranteed freedom of conscience and religion, and of performing religious rites.

«The church is separated from the state.

«A special law regulates the legal status, the questions of material support, and the right of self-government and organisation of the various religious communities.

«Misusing the church and religion for political ends or forming political organisations with a religious basis is prohibited» (art. 78)

The Law on Religions, voted by the National Assembly at the beginning of 1949, provides different punishments for «every preaching of hatred on a religious basis, through speech, press, action or in any other way for all those who by force or threats hamper the citizens of the recognised religions freely to profess their faith and to perform their religious services and rites.»

There is no dominant church nor oppressed churches and religions in Bulgaria. And though the church is separated from the state, every year the state budget provides sums for the support of all religions. The gains of the Mohammedans who were persecuted in the years of monarcho-fascist dictatorship are considerable. From the entire aid granted to all churches, quite a large sum has been allocated for the support of Moslem mufti communities and prayer homes. In addition to this, the state grants subsidies to the Mohammedan religious schools, which this year amounted to 7,500,000 leva. The mosques and the Mohammedan schools receive aid in other particular cases as well. Thus, with materials allocated by the People's Council, the Mohammedan religious intermediate school



Tomboul—mosque in Kolarovgrad

in Stratsin village, Pomorie county was supplied with electricity, radio and water. A canteen was organised at the school which is maintained by the county People's Council.

The Mohammedans in Bulgaria have 1,460 prayer homes (mosques), in which 1,850 imams, hatibs and muezims appointed by the mufti communities conduct services. The state and the People's Councils aid the furnishing and repair of the old prayer-homes as well as the construction of new ones. Over 10 new mosques have been built in the counties of Kurdjali, Devin, Purvomai, Krumovgrad and Novi Pazar since September 9, 1944. The newly built mosque in Borino village, Devin county is the best in the whole county.

Spiritual leader of the Mohammedans is the Chief Mufti. He is assisted by two supreme clerical judges and 26 local muftis, with centres in the county towns. The Moslem religious communities are local religious organisations of the Mohammedans. A religious community has been established in every town and village with at least 50 Mohammedan families. The number of these communities has

risen to 1,050, of which 951 are Turkish. They take care of the prayer homes and manage the properties belonging to these religious communities. Their yearly incomes, amounting to hundreds of millions of leva, are spent according to the religious needs of the Mohammedan population. From these sums, a fund has been established at the Chief Mufti community to support 15 students.

There are 4 higher religious schools in Bulgaria (medresses) which train Mohammedan priests with an enrolment of 354 students, and a higher seminary «Nyuuvab» in Kolarovgrad, attended by 650 youths. The state allocates special subsidies for these schools.

The gratitude of the Mohammedans for the care of the People's Government found expression in the statements of the deputy chief mufti Mustafa Memisoglu, made in connection with the celebration of their religious holiday «Ramadan-Bairam»:

«Before September 9, 1944, the authorities prevented us from celebrating «Ramadan-Bairam». Now the Mohammedans have full freedom. The People's Government of the Fatherland Front not only does not prohibit our religious holidays, but also aids us by granting the Moslem population special rations for this holiday. In addition to that, our youth has created its own amateur artistic groups. On holidays we enjoy Turkish plays, performed by our young actors.»

In spite of the emigration of the greater part of the Jews to Palestine, 14 synagogues function in Bulgaria at present. Religious services are regularly held in them. The Chief Rabbi is the head of the Hebrew religion in Bulgaria, with its centre in Sofia. From the funds, provided for in the budget to aid religious communities, considerable sums have been allocated for the chief rabbi-nate and the synagogues in Bulgaria.

The Catholics and Protestants are treated equally with the other believers. After September 9, 1944, nobody has prevented them from observing their religious traditions and performing their rites. The services in the Protestant churches continued normally, even after a number of the Protestant pastors were arraigned before court to answer for their criminal deeds. The imperialist circles in the West speculated a great deal with the trial against

the evangelical pastors and are continuing to speculate with it. This trial has been used as one of the motives for their slanderous charges that there are no political and religious freedoms in Bulgaria.

It should be remembered, that the sentences against the pastor spies were passed in accordance with the existing laws of the country and on the basis of the defendants' full confessions supported by ample factual data, which proved beyond any doubt, that they had been traitorous to the state, having served British and American intelligence for many years.

The trial of the pastor spies was held with open doors in the presence of many foreign correspondents, representatives of various foreign agencies and newspapers. Religious representatives of the Western churches were also present at this trial. Among them was the British pastor G. B. Chambers, who declared before representatives of the press:

«Immediately on my arrival in Sofia on March 1, I went to Court and attended all sessions to the end of the trial. The way the trial was conducted was quite normal and very similar to the procedure in England. The trial was held with open doors. The gallery of the foreign correspondents was overcrowded.

«In the West, slanders are being spread, that freedom of religion is non-existent in Bulgaria and that there is religious persecution. Such assertions are absolutely absurd. During my stay in the capital, I met the President of the Union of Clergymen in Bulgaria and many other clergymen. I was convinced that the state recognises all religions. Every church has its properties, which it manages and uses according to its own wishes. I attended religious services in two Orthodox churches. I also entered the church of pastor Zyapkov, chief among the accused. In this church, the service was being held as usual as if nothing had happened.

«I am convinced, that there is full religious freedom in Bulgaria, and that nobody is persecuted for his religious convictions.»

The religious, political, economic and cultural freedoms which the People's Government guarantees to all

believers in Bulgaria, won them for the cause of building socialism. This cause was embraced not only by the Orthodox, but by the Mohammedans, Jews, Catholics and Protestants as well. And this is something natural, because the believers understand that building of socialism is in no contradiction with their religious feelings.

SLANDEROUS PROPAGANDA ON THE POSITION OF THE TURKS IN BULGARIA AND SPECULATION WITH THEIR EMIGRATION

With the victory of the People's anti-fascist uprising of September 9, 1944, the power passed into the hands of the people and Bulgaria was detached from the capitalist system.

Under the protection of the Soviet Union and in the conditions of ever growing friendship with the Soviet peoples and the peoples of the new democracies, the Bulgarian people took the road of socialism.

The American and British imperialists, who were already preparing the occupation of the Balkans before the end of World War II, organised a whole series of hostile actions against the People's Republic of Bulgaria to restore capitalism and create military bases against the Soviet Union. They aided the defeated remnants of the reactionary and fascist bourgeoisie, and organised plots for the overthrow of the People's Democratic Government. The American Legation in Sofia became the leading organisational centre of espionage, sabotage and subversive activity in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The imperialists made use of their agents in the Balkans — the Titoists, the Greek monarcho-fascists and the Turkish reactionaries. A series of incidents were organised on the Bulgarian frontier under their directions. Saboteur bands were smuggled into the People's Republic of Bulgaria from Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey and various plots were organised inside the country. This was proved in an indisputable way in the trials against Nikola Petkov and Co., the military «Neutral Officer» and «Tsar Kroum» conspiratorial organisations, the 15 evangelical pastor spies, Traicho Kostov and his group, the American agent Ship-

kov, the Titoist saboteurs and spies, the Turkish military attaché and others.

The American and British imperialists termed the discovering and disarming of these espionage and conspiratorial nests a violation of human rights and freedoms. «The defenders» of human rights and freedoms of the citizens defamed the People's Government and falsified the facts in the press and over the radio and in a number of international institutions (The United Nations, the International Court at the Hague etc.). In this way they are trying to influence world public opinion in favour of their slanderous accusations and to justify their attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The question of the position of the minorities in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, more especially of the Turkish minority, held a central place in this base campaign.

The chief task was entrusted to the Ankara reactionaries who launched against Bulgaria the most fantastic and contradictory charges.

Thus the newspaper «Son Saat» wrote on October 11, 1949, that the Bulgarian Government was pursuing «a policy of indiscriminate slaughter» and the newspaper «Vatan» of July 22, 1950, stated that it was «Slavonicising» the Turkish minority.

How ill-intentioned are the allegations of the Turkish Government and the Turkish press becomes clear from the admissions of Istinieli, Turkish Minister Plenipotentiary in Sofia, published in the Turkish press in 1949:

«The situation of the Turkish minority is not such as described by the Turkish press and as rumoured. If the Bulgarian officials were treating the Turkish minority as is claimed, our mission in Sofia would not have remained indifferent to all this. All these stories are spread by interested people. The Turks in Bulgaria are treated absolutely normally today.»

The Turkish reactionaries increased their propaganda among the Turkish population in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, with the aim of inciting it against the Bulgarian people and the People's Government, luring it with demagogic promises to emigrate to Turkey. The Consulates and the Legation circulated letters among the Turkish

population with the following text: «Ask the Consulate for a permit!» (Editor's note: — emigration permit) and sent to the Turks special emigration forms. In addition to that, thousands of letters, sent every day in an organised fashion from relatives, acquaintances and anonymous senders in Turkey, prompted the Turkish minority to emigrate. The wealthy Turks using their influence in the past, played an important role in the propaganda.

In personal meetings with Turks, arranged in the Consulates, mosques or private homes, as well as through their special emissaries, wealthy Turks and reactionary hodjas, the Turkish Legation and consular officials constantly made propaganda for the emigration of the Turks from Bulgaria.

Speculating with the national and religious feelings of the Turkish population, they threatened that the day was not far off when Bulgarians would destroy the mosques, would seize their property and would kill off the Mohammedan population. They spread rumours among the Turkish population of an imminent war, in which Bulgarian towns and villages would be destroyed by American bombers, the Turks therefore had better hurry back to the «mother-country.»

It was suggested to the Turkish population in the People's Republic of Bulgaria that life in Turkey was a paradise, that easy means of livelihood would be secured for every emigrant, that a great deal of land would be distributed among the peasants etc.

The statements of an emigrant published in the newspaper «Gerçek» of September 20, 1950, throw light on how Turkish propaganda was enticing the Turks:

«Do you want me to speak frankly to you? We thought that Turkey was a paradise on earth. Now we ask each other, where is the Turkish paradise? Many of the emigrants whom you see, came here with the hope of earning a great deal with little work. If we remain here, we won't be able to find any work at all in a year or two. We are all just wondering what to do.»

After years of ever stronger pressure by the threats and demagogic promises of the Turkish propaganda, part of the Turkish minority expressed a wish to emigrate to Turkey.

Granting the wish of the Turks and complying with the Convention for the Exchange of Population, signed between Bulgaria and Turkey on October 18, 1925, immediately after post-war difficulties had been eliminated, the Bulgarian Government advised the respective administrative organs to supply all Turks wishing to emigrate with emigration documents. In fulfilment of art. 2 of the Convention, according to which: «The signatories accept that no hindrance will be placed to the voluntary emigration of Turks from Bulgaria and Bulgarians from Turkey,» the Bulgarian authorities facilitated in every possible way the supplying of all emigrants with documents, the settling of all property questions at the time of emigration, their transport to the frontier etc. By October 1950, 120,000 Turks who had filed formal declarations for emigration were supplied with emigration passports.

The Turkish Government, however, which has never had a sincere intention of receiving its countrymen in Turkey, created a series of difficulties and obstacles for the emigrants. The Turkish Consulates in the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Ştalin and Bourgas, delayed the issue of entry visas for Turkey for months and in some cases for over a year. Many of the emigrants, who were pushed around from one Consulate to another, delayed and deceived for months on end, were given no visas at all. The consular authorities required declarations about the political views of those wishing to emigrate and refused entry visas to those whom they considered undesirable.

On the instruction of their Government, the Turkish Consulates also asked for declarations from the emigrants that they had rich relatives in Turkey, who would support them for a year. Similar declarations were required also from the relatives indicated.

These gross violations of the Convention on the part of the Turkish Government, which is hindering emigration, are confirmed not only by the complaint of those wishing to emigrate, but by official Turkish documents and statements as well.

Thus on July 28, 1950, Samet Agaoglu, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic, admitted in the Great National Assembly that «the Turkish Government is solely to blame» for the failure of

those wishing to immigrate, to do so. At the same time Samet Agaoglu confirmed that the Turkish Government will admit emigrants into Turkey only after the preliminary individual investigation of their political views and «social principles». The Turkish Government admitted this in its reply note of August 28, 1950.

In their desire to hinder the emigration of their countrymen as long as possible, the Turkish consular authorities resorted to absurd measures. There are a number of cases, when entry visas were issued to some members of a family and the rest of the members of the same family were refused visas on the pretext that they were Gypsies.

Tens of thousands of emigrants, to whom the Bulgarian Government issued emigration passports and who sold their property confident that they would be accepted in Turkey, found themselves in a terrible plight.

Complaint from the emigrants about deliberate delays, the inhuman attitude toward them on the part of the Turkish consular organs, and their refusal to grant them entry visas are constantly being sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. They describe their plight and ask for mediation to the Ankara Government.

The emigrants Shaban Ali Osmanov, Shakir Shakirov, Topchev, Ali Mustakov Direkov, Ali Ismailov Ahmedov, all from Kessarevo village, Gorna Oriahovitsa county, wrote the following in their petition:

«This year, 1950, we 18 families of Kessarevo village and 2 families of Kutsina village received emigration passports and exit militia visas for emigration to Turkey and began trying to get entry visas, as we had sold all our property. We all tried to go to the Turkish Consulate, but the majority of us, after waiting from 15 to 28 days, failed to gain admittance. Some of us, as Shakir Shakirov Topchev, had given their passports to the Consulate, but after two months they received them back without visas. Finding ourselves in an impasse, without resources and homes and with our Bulgarian passports and visas alone we decided to leave for Turkey together with a group of countrymen of ours who had Turkish visas. We left for Svilengrad on September 23, this year. We were stopped there by the Turkish authorities, our luggage being sent

to Turkey together with the luggage of our countrymen, who had visas and were allowed to go to Turkey. We found ourselves in a terrible position without any funds, bread, shelter or luggage. Our 20 large families remained in Svilengrad and we, the men, came to Sofia to ask the Turkish Consulate again to give us Turkish visas. The Turkish Legation and the Turkish Consulate in Sofia refused us visas again this time, in spite of the fact that we described our plight to them. They would not even hear us.»

The case mentioned above is not the only one. A great number of Turkish emigrants, desperate after the months long delays, tried to go to Turkey without entry visas, with their Bulgarian passports and Bulgarian exit visas.

At the beginning the Turkish authorities admitted some of these emigrants into Turkish territory, but later drove them out resorting to violence and cruelty.

On October 7, 1950, the Turkish Government closed the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier. The railway traffic to and from Turkey was stopped. Many passengers, among whom were foreign diplomatic officials, had to wait on Bulgarian territory, many freight wagons loaded with parcels and goods, destined for Turkey were held up, as well as a great number of emigrants who were constantly coming to the frontier.

For many months the Turkish Consulates had issued entry visas to 20,000 emigrants. After the closing of the frontier, however, the Turkish Government in order to create fresh difficulties to the People's Government instructed its Consulates in Bulgaria to speed up the issue of entry visas. Within only a month more than 30,000 persons were granted permits to leave, but not one of them was allowed to cross the frontier.

The Bulgarian Government, which has always shown concern for the Turkish population in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, did a great deal to alleviate the fate of the emigrants. At the exit point at Svilengrad, the Bulgarian authorities, the local population and the Bulgarian Red Cross took all necessary measures for securing shelter, food and medical aid to the emigrants.

These cares of the People's Government for the emigrants waiting at the frontier could not even be concealed by Basri Risan, Chargé d'Affaires of the Turkish Lega-



Medical examination of Turkish emigrants at the frontier exit point, who stated to representatives of the Turkish press at the end of November 1950:

«Passing through Svilengrad, I saw our countrymen waiting there. I found with satisfaction that they had been housed in some of the neighbouring villages. The newspapers may be right to complain, or they may not, but judging from what I saw I think that the Bulgarian Government has done all it could for their relief. The situation does not allow more.»

The humane attitude of the Bulgarian Government toward the Turks who had expressed desire to emigrate, was reflected in the address of the National Council of the Fatherland Front, published in the press.

Taking into account the obstacles created by the Turkish Government and wishing to safeguard them from eventual privations and sufferings, the National Council of the Fatherland Front warned them not to sell their property before they were granted Turkish entry visas.

In this connection «Rabotnichesko Delo», organ of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, wrote on September 18, 1950:

«We must tell our Turkish citizens, wishing to emigrate to Turkey, it is our duty to tell them, to warn them:

«We have nothing against your wish to emigrate, we shall assist you to emigrate, but your bitter experience with the Turkish Government's trifling with your fate, the definite fear it shows and its unwillingness to admit you into Turkey, show that none of you must hurry to sell his property and furniture, to wreck his life and the life of his family, until he is granted a visa by the Turkish Legation, because you see how, deceived by the Turkish emissaries, your countrymen who have sold their property, but have failed to receive Turkish visas, are left at the will of fate. Such countrymen of yours stick around the Turkish Legation in Sofia day and night and in front of the Consulates in the cities of Plovdiv and Stalin, crowd in Svilengrad, freezing and waiting, waiting for Turkish visas, left without money and food, desperate and outcast. Do not swallow the bait of those who incite you to sell all, and yet do not give you visas and permits to enter Turkey, and do not wish to give them to you. **Sell your property only after you have secured your Turkish visa.**»

Such are the facts. They are well known to the Turkish Government and Turkish public opinion. The Ankara rulers, however, who are grossly violating the 1925 Convention continue to slander the Bulgarian Government that it is persecuting the Turks in Bulgaria and forcing them to emigrate.

Trying to conceal its base manoeuvres and inhuman attitude to its countrymen, the Turkish Government and reactionary Turkish propaganda make unsuccessful attempts to ascribe to the Bulgarian Government methods and actions, applied to the minorities in Turkey itself.

The history of recent decades is rich with revealing instances of this kind. The minority problems in Turkey were settled according to the formula given by Sultan Abdul Hamid, who declared at the end of the last century: «To liquidate the Armenian question, we must liquidate the Armenians.» Over one million Armenians were killed and hundreds of thousands of others were scattered outside Turkey. After the First World War 1,500,000 Greeks were driven out of Asia Minor and 200,000 others were barbarously massacred.

From 1925 to 1930 and 1937 to 1938 the many million strong Kurd minority was subjected to extermination because of its attempts to secure its national independence.

The «Economist» wrote in 1946 that after the quelling of the Kurd rebellion of 1937-38 the Kurds had officially ceased to exist.

It is worth knowing that when these bloody atrocities were committed against the Kurds, Celal Bayar, today's President of the Turkish Republic, was the Prime Minister.

The attitude of the Turkish rulers toward the 200,000 Bulgarians, who remained within the frontiers of Turkey after the liberation of Bulgaria (1877-78), did not differ from their attitude to the Greeks, Armenians and the Kurds.

Thus after the rebellion of Transfiguration Day in 1903, several thousands of Bulgarians were driven out of Eastern Thrace and over 3,000 slaughtered, 2,610 Bulgarian houses were plundered and set on fire and over 12,000 Bulgarians were left without shelter.

During the two Balkan Wars in 1912 and 1913 and afterwards, the Bulgarians in Eastern Thrace were subjected to unparalleled atrocities.

Blinded by their chauvinistic hatred of the Bulgarians the Turkish authorities organised armed Circassian and other bands for the eradication of Bulgarian elements from Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace. The homes of Bulgarians were plundered and set on fire. The men, the children and the old men were killed and the women kidnapped, raped and interned in remote districts of Turkey.

In his report No. 535 the Bulgarian Consul-General who related the stories of Bulgarians from Kupranli village, Silivri county, wrote the following:

«Armed bandits started coming into the village every night and broke into one and then into another house, smashing doors, breaking into barns and plundering everything they laid their hands on: grain, flour, clothes. In a short time they had driven away all the cattle: cows, oxen and about 2,000 sheep.»

In a telegram No. 84 to the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Chairman of the Commission in charge of settling the refugees wrote from Dede-Agaç, that the peasants of Spindel in the Dardanelles had been forced

by the Turkish authorities to leave their village with one hour notice.

The plight of the Bulgarians from the villages of Bülğürköy, Pıramanköy, Lisgar and other villages of Eastern Thrace was even worse. They were attacked by armed bandits, the peasants were ill-treated and killed. Over 400 women, girls and children were taken away to the town of Keşan and later to Gallipoli. Some of them managed to escape to Varna (city of Stalin) on a Russian steamer and others were taken by the Turkish authorities to the towns of Çanak Kale, Kind Bahar and Çardak village and still others were interned in remote parts of Asia Minor.

According to official data in 1913 alone, the Turks seized from Bulgarians 490,360 acres of fields, vineyards, meadows etc., 54,011 acres of forests and pastures, 34,062 houses and other real estate property, 780,662 heads of horned and small cattle. To this property one must also add a large number of public and cultural institutes, schools, churches, chapels, monasteries and other properties.

To date the Turkish Government has not paid a single leva for this Bulgarian property, the value of which as assessed in 1931 amounts to several milliard leva.

A considerable number of national minorities — Kurds, Armenians, Lazis, Arabs etc. — still live within the Turkish frontiers. The policy of the present rulers to these minorities is the same as that of their predecessors.

The minorities in Turkey have no part in the social and political life of the country. They cannot be elected as national representatives, to hold government and social positions, etc. There are no minority schools in Turkey. Illiteracy among the Kurds and Lazis is over 95 per cent. The minorities are deprived of any social and health care whatsoever. In many cases they are forbidden to use their own language even in ordinary conversation.

Today it is generally forbidden to speak and write about the minorities in Turkey, except in the cases when penal measures are to be enforced against them.

Such is the minority policy of the Ankara rulers in semi-feudal Turkey which the American imperialists call «the most democratic country next to the USA.» Such is

the minority policy of this American semi-colony, whose rulers have the insolence of slandering the Bulgarian Government of trampling upon minority rights and freedom.

The anti-Bulgarian slanderous campaign was accompanied by a great number of hostile, espionage and provocative acts, such as:

1) In 1948 two Turkish military planes flew far into Bulgarian air territory with intelligence purpose.

2) The Turkish judicial authorities tried without any cause and threw into jail two Bulgarian anti-fascists.

3) In violation of the Extradition Convention signed between the two countries, the Turkish Government gave refuge and defence to a large number of common criminals, who had fled from Bulgaria. Such was the case of the murderers' band Mihalakev, which killed the Bulgarian Civil Aviation Chief, two pilots and took a Bulgarian plane to Turkey. The acquittal of this band of murderers by the Turkish court was a unique scandal in the history of jurisprudence and filled with indignation all progressive people.

4) Before the very eyes of the Turkish authorities the Bulgarian Consulate in Istanbul was attacked by an irresponsible band.

5) Despite the protests of the Bulgarian Government many attacks have been made on Bulgarian diplomatic mail.

6) The Turkish authorities organised systematic smuggling of espionage and saboteur bands into Bulgarian territory. Thus for example, on June 10, 1950, the well known Turkish reconnaissance officer Kaskati equipped with arms, maps, Bulgarian currency etc. crossed the Bulgarian frontier.

7) The Bulgarian-Turkish frontier is an object of constant insolent provocations on the part of the Turkish frontier authorities. In the first six months of 1950 alone, 14 more serious provocations were made.

8) The Turkish Legation and the five Turkish Consulates in the People's Republic of Bulgaria are carrying on espionage and subversive activity. Thus the former military attachés Colonel Münir Aral and Captain Emin Açar, organised spying for collecting information and

documents pertaining to the country's national defence and security. Their closest accomplices were Hak Necinov Osmanov, former secretary of theirs, and Mehmed Ahmedov Dagdigov, Secretary to the Turkish Consulate in Sofia, both of them Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin.

The consular and legation organs incited the Turks in Bulgaria to disobey the Bulgarian authorities.

For this purpose the Turkish Legation and consular organs used the Turkish minority in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in this system of broad espionage activity.

As stated in the note of the Bulgarian Government of August 10, 1950, to the Turkish Government: «the Turkish consular authorities exploit their meetings with those wishing to emigrate to ask them questions and collect information of an intelligence character.»

With the aim of creating difficulties for the People's Government and of hampering socialist construction in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, they tried to detach the Turkish minority from the country's economic life by intensifying their emigration propaganda during the time of economic drives.

A link in the chain of the provocative actions by the Turkish Government against the People's Republic of Bulgaria is also their base speculation with the emigration of the Turks, connected with a whole series of iniquities, the violation of the 1925 Convention and the cruel, inhuman treatment of those wishing to emigrate.

This anti-Bulgarian policy of the Turkish reactionaries was supported by the Titoists and the Greek-monarchofascists who also launched a series of hostile actions against the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

By frontier incidents, by smuggling espionage and saboteur bands into Bulgaria's territory, by slanderous propaganda against the People's Republic of Bulgaria, by organising espionage and conspiratorial nests in the country, by their machinations with the emigrants, the American imperialists and their Balkan agents aim to split the unity of the Bulgarian people and to estrange the minorities, in particular, the Turkish minority, from the People's Government.

They are also trying to create discontent and agitation among the Turkish minority and to provoke interference

in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. They want to maintain a state of tension in the Balkans, to fan hatred and chauvinistic passions in the Turkish, Greek and Yugoslav peoples in order to use them as cannon fodder in the imperialist war being prepared against the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union.

In answer to these infernal plans of the imperialists and their agents in the Balkans, the working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria are doubling their efforts in the building of socialism and heightening their vigilance. The Bulgarian people and national minorities meet with indignation the slanders and provocations of the instigators of war. Rallied around their People's Government they stand firmly in the front of peace, democracy and socialism, headed by the Soviet Union, ready to defend with all their strength the fruit of their peaceful labour.