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SEPT. 1948

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Greece/Bulgaria/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 27 January 1949

SUBJECT NOF Activities

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PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

1. On 8 August 1948, at an unidentified place in Western Macedonia, there was a meeting of the Plenum of the Central Committee of NOF. A report was made on the activity of NOF from the convention of 13 January 1948 until the above date. The report complained of weaknesses in all fields of activity (propaganda, enlightenment, recruiting, and above all rousing the Macedonian Slav population to join the struggle of the Democratic Army).

2. The Plenum declared Paschalis Mitropoulos and Michael Kermitzis responsible for this situation. They have developed an opposition faction within the organization, and this antagonism is regarded as tending toward the dissolution of NOF.

3. This attack against the two leading officials was merely a pretext. The truth is that no weakness has been observed in the various fields of activity of NOF, but on the contrary the organization has fully performed its functions. The attack against Mitropoulos and Keramitzis was inspired by Guerrilla Headquarters and was aimed at removing the two leaders from the Central Committee of NOF, because they are regarded as followers of Tito and opposed to the Cominform. They were to be replaced by others more faithful to the Cominform and more sincere collaborators of KKE and Markos.

4. The Cominform and KKE had become afraid that Keramitzis and Mitropoulos might follow the policy of Gotsev during the period of Elas activity. Gotsev, as is well known, withdrew from Elas and formed independent Slavo-Macedonian units and in collaboration with Tito sought an Autonomous Macedonia federated with Yugoslavia.

5. On 8 August 1948 in Melbourne, Australia, there was a celebration of Ilinden attended by the Yugoslav Consul General Zarkovic. Christos Altis, from the village of Triantafyllia (near Florina), made a speech praising the struggles of NOF as a continuation of the Gotse-Deltchev work. He stated that the time is at hand for the fulfillment of the desires and ideals of the fighters of Ilinden for the establishment of an Autonomous Macedonia with its capital at Skoplje, and added that NOF, in alliance with the "Democratic Army" of Greece, has succeeded in liberating the Prespa region. Soon, he said, the first step will be the declaration of this region as autonomous.

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Authority of the Director of Central Intelligence
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