

Truths in Bulgaria now have value only if they come "from above". When former Prime Minister Ivan Kostov had to solve the issue of the Communist secret police files, it was postponed for the next mandate, which never occurred. When Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha had to make a statement on the system of human harassment, of which his family also suffered, he said that the time for this would come. Thus, as the ominous archives of the former State Security were not opened and read, it turned out that the current Prime Minister had only waited for the former one to ask him how the laws in the country are observed. And just like ahead of any other elections, the shadow of the past was brought to life and it was again made - unforgettable. It is quite another question whether the paper carriers have not been selectively cleared and who will believe all of this NOW.

forgets them, and not boast so much in the media", Borissov had said.

The National Movement of Simeon II vowed to introduce amendments to the Classified Information Act, which are being prepared by the State Commission on Information Security (the so called "Markova" Commission). They are expected to be adopted by parliament by the end of the year. By virtue of these amendments, the Commission will gain the right to request the files from various institutions. Currently, it can only use strict administrative formulas in its letters to the institutions, but has no capacity to punish. Otherwise, it is known that the "Markova" Commission and none of its members can read directly the documents of the former State Security, which are kept in the archives of the Special Services.

It is strange that a person entitled to refuse information to a senior military officer can still rely on the Services to furnish him/her with selective data from the information packages of the State Security. The situation is similar with regard to the State Commission on Information Security's access to the archives of the Military Counterintelligence and the National Security Service. The archives of the former State Security were to have left the building on September 6th Street long ago and become a part of the State Archive, but because of the

THE SECRET POLICE FILES: THE UNFORGETTABLE PAST

Vassil CHOBANOV

Ministry of Interior Secretary General Boyko Borissov also voiced (from above) his truth about the secret police files. According to him, it would be good for the state if everything from the State Security archives was uncovered immediately so that the public could draw an opinion as to who's who.

Only after this cleansing, the Ministry of Interior could begin building a new agent's apparatus. This has been Gen. Borissov's problem in recent years, because the 15-year collaborator saga in Bulgaria actually left the police without informers. If the files had been opened 15 years back, the public would have forgotten about the State Security, the agents and the collaborators, and the institutions would have started working normally. The persons who had proclaimed their fellow citizens enemies to the people only because their grandfather had been a policeman, would have to take their responsibility, "hide down a rabbit hole, so that history

numerous arrangements so that none of the old state secrets would "leak out" (one can only wonder to whom), this legislative provision has not yet been fulfilled. Nor was it fulfilled by the current Minister of Interior. This span is complemented by the three-year mandate of Zhan Videnov's cabinet, followed by another 4 years: the time of Ivan Kostov. Thus, the specialists in national security (meaning: at the state level) are still promoting to their electorate, fidgeting with impoverishment, the old offer of the story about "the good cop" and "the bad cop", which they have been trying to sell for 15 years.

Who is agent "Kolev"? "I'm not agent "Strahil", but I know who it is!" Headlines like these prove possible even now, in the 21 century in Bulgaria, after the overall failure of the political class to fulfil the 1994 decision of the Bulgarian Parliament.

One of the ministers in Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha's cabinet was agent for the Second General Department of the former State Security for 10 years and is known

DECISION

Regarding the information about the organisation, the methods and the means in the fulfilment of specific tasks of State Security authorities, as well as the agency information of these authorities

(*State Gazette*, issue no. 86 from 21.10.1994)

On the basis of Article 86, para. 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Parliament decides that:

The information about the organisation, the methods and the means in the fulfilment of specific tasks of State Security authorities, as well as the agency information of these authorities regarding or related to the period before 13 October 1991, shall not be deemed a state secret in the meaning of Articles 19 and 20 of the List of Facts, Data and Subjects Constituting a State Secret of the Republic of Bulgaria (*State Gazette*, issue no. 31 from 1990, revised nos. 90 and 99 from 1992.)

The decision is adopted by the 36th National Assembly on 13 October 1994 and is sealed with the State seal.

under the nickname of "agent Kolev". This was recently reminded by Metodi Andreev, ex chairman of the secret files commission. The commission had established that a minister had indeed been a State Security agent, but the documents did not reveal what he had been involved in. This information had been provided to Prime Minister Saxe-Coburg Gotha as early as 2001. Metodi Andreev specified that he was not referring to an enforcement agency minister. A day later, Edwin Sugarev mentioned yet again the name of the Minister of State Administration Dimitar Kalchev as one of the two ministers collaborating with the former State Security. Kalchev himself denied the accusation, explaining that manipulations and insinuations regarding the files had been made at the beginning of the cabinet's mandate. The Minister of State Administration also pointed out that before the 1989 changes he had lived abroad and spent very little time in Bulgaria.

The Union of Democratic Forces insisted that the Personal Data Protection Act is not applied with regard to data, related to the activity of the former State Security collaborators.

According to Yordan Bakalov, the revision will be a touch-

stone for the majority and the prime minister. "If they support the amendment, then we could really embark on the way to declassifying these documents," Bakalov added. This statement implies that the declassification of the documents of the former State Security will affect the Council of Ministers and the ruling majority. The deadline for declassifying the documents sealed "top secret" will elapse in 2005, the former head of the Ministry of Interior Archive Serafim Stoykov added.

Are the Bulgarians entitled to know what information their state has been gathering and what it knows about them? The answer to this question looks definitely positive according to the modern standards regarding the communicative human rights. It is time that the retreats from this, otherwise globally guaranteed right, be forgotten.

Thus, the hidden power of the "unforgettable" past (for some people) will also be buried in the past and, let's hope that it loses (at last) its political and power-related significance. ■

