

PAGE 01 SOFIA 06829 01 OF 02 151504Z
ACTION EUR-00

UNCLASSIFIED

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10
PA-01 OMB-01 NRRC-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /050 W

-----321544 190428Z /63

R 151415Z DEC 89
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8909
INFO EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

SECTION 01 OF 02 SOFIA 06829

BRUSSELS FOR USEC - AMB. NILES

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, BU, PHUM
SUBJECT: MLADENOV ADDRESSES PRO-COMMUNIST RALLY OF
- 35,000

1. (U) SUMMARY. AT A HASTILY CONVENED BUT WELL-PUBLICIZED RALLY ON 13 DECEMBER, BULGARIAN PRESIDENT AND BCP GENERAL SECRETARY PETUR MLADENOV ADDRESSED A CROWD OF 35,000 COMMUNISTS AND URGED THEM TO SUPPORT THE PARTY'S PROGRAM OF RESTRUCTURING, WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THAT IN THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY

2. (U) AT THE MEETING IN 9TH OF SEPTEMBER SQUARE, WHICH HAD BEEN FILLED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS EARLIER WITH APPROXIMATELY 12,000 CITIZENS DEMONSTRATING FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGES, TWO OF THE SPEAKERS CLAIMED TO BE ADDRESSING 50,000 PEOPLE. IN HIS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT, THE "RABOTNICHESKO DELO" CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT HE COULD NOT SAY HOW MANY ATTENDED, "WHETHER THERE WERE 100,000 OR 200,000." POLEC CHIEF AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PAGE 02 SOFIA 06829 01 OF 02 151504Z

OFFICER ESTIMATED THE CROWD AT 30-35,000.

3. (U) MLADENOV'S PRINCIPAL SPEECH OUTLINED THE GOALS OF THE PARTY AND THE DECISIONS OF THE PLENUM, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: TO HOLD A PARTY CONGRESS ON 19 MARCH 1990; TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION TO MAKE A MORE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, BY THE END OF 1990; TO CREATE A PACKAGE OF MORE DEMOCRATIC LAWS; TO ORGANIZE MEASURES TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY; AND TO REMOVE LANGUAGE WHICH GIVES THE BCP A "LEADING ROLE" FROM ARTICLE 1 OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

RRS Date: 11-21-97

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IM/IPS/CR/IR
DECLASSIFY
EXCISE
DENY
EO Citations
IN PART

TS authority to
CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

CONSTITUTION. REGARDING THE LATTER, MLADENOV REMARKED THAT THE BCP "DOES NOT NEED" LAWS WHICH GUARANTEE ITS SUPREMACY. PLACARDS AT THE MEETING ECHOED HIS STATEMENT: ONE READ, "BCP DOES NOT WANT LAWS FOR ITS POWER--IT HAS THE PEOPLE INSTEAD." ANOTHER READ, "EVEN WITHOUT ARTICLE 1, WE WILL BE FIRST|"

UNCLASSIFIED

4. (U) AS THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY SET OUT ON THE DIFFICULT COURSE OF RESTRUCTURING, MLADENOV SAID, "WE WILL MOVE TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ACCOMPLISHING PERESTROIKA IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, IN PEACE AND COOPERATION, WITH OUR BALKAN NEIGHBORS, WITH EUROPE, AND WITH THE ENTIRE WORLD."

5. (U) MLADENOV AND MANY OF THE OTHER SPEAKERS, WHO INCLUDED A STUDENT, JOURNALISTS, AN ACTOR, AND WORKERS, TOLD THE CROWD THAT THIS WAS A GREAT, CRUCIAL, "WEIGHTY" (TO BORROW MLADENOV'S TERMINOLOGY) MOMENT IN BULGARIA'S HISTORY. GEORGI TAMBUEV, A JOURNALIST WITH "RABOTNICHESKO DELO," SAID THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD WELCOME "THE TENTH OF DECEMBER 1989 LIKE THE 9TH OF SEPTEMBER 1944. POLITBURO MEMBER AND GENERAL DOBRI DZHUROV SAID THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS ITS GREAT DATES AND THAT, IN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ... SOFIA 06829 01 OF 02 151504Z

BULGARIA'S 1300 YEAR HISTORY, 10 NOVEMBER 1989 IS ONE OF THEM.

6. (U) MEANWHILE, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, THE AGRARIAN PARTY (BANU) INITIATIVE GROUP HAD ORGANIZED A RALLY "IN SUPPORT OF RESTRUCTURING, AND AN INDEPENDENT AND UNIFIED PARTY." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE CROWD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND UNIFIED PARTY, REHABILITATION OF NIKOLA PETKOV AND ALL OTHER PERSECUTED AGRARIANS, RESIGNATION OF THE BANU'S EQUIVALENT OF A POLITBURO, ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE POLITBURO BEFORE THE PARTY'S GOVERNING COUNCIL (ITS EQUIVALENT OF THE BCP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE), GREATER RIGHTS FOR THOSE WHO WORK THE LAND, LAND-LAW REFORM, AND A PARTY CONGRESS TO BE CONVENED BEFORE THE END OF MARCH, 1990. NO EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTENDED THE RALLY, BUT CROWD SHOTS ON TELEVISION SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST 3000 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT.

7. (C) COMMENT. THE PRESS COVERED THE BCP RALLY EXTENSIVELY, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT. THE 14 DECEMBER EDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY'S THREE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPERS "RABOTNICHESKO DELO," "TRUD," AND "OTECHESTVEN FRONT" FEATURED LARGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CROWD. THE 13 DECEMBER EDITION OF "VECHERNI NOVINI" CARRIED A FRONT PAGE. LARGE-PRINT GRAPHIC STATING THAT THE ORGANIZERS "SUMMON ALL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS,

UNCLASSIFIED

ALL COMMUNISTS, WORKING PEOPLE, AND YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN
FROM SOFIA" TO THE MEETING.

8. (C) YOUNG PEOPLE, HOWEVER, WERE NOTABLY ABSENT.
POLOFFS ESTIMATE THE AVERAGE AGE OF THIS CROWD AT
APPROXIMATELY 50 YEARS OLD, OR 15 YEARS OLDER THAN THE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

PAGE 01 SOFIA 06829 02 OF 02 151504Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	OMB-01	NRRC-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/050 W		

-----321546 190428Z /63

R 151415Z DEC 89
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8910
INFO EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

SECTION 02 OF 02 SOFIA 06829

BRUSSELS FOR USEC - AMB. NILES

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, BU, PHUM
SUBJECT: MLADENOV ADDRESSES PRO-COMMUNIST RALLY OF

AVERAGE FOR THE 18 NOVEMBER AND 10 DECEMBER MASS
DEMONSTRATIONS OF INDEPENDENT GROUPS IN SOFIA.

9. (C) THE SPEECHES REFLECTED THE PARTY'S AND THE
PRESS' MOVES TOWARD GLASNOST. WHILE A FEW CRITICISMS
WERE LEVELLED AND WERE PERHAPS STRONGER THAN ANY
WHICH THE CROWD MIGHT HAVE HEARD AT PREVIOUS SCP RALLIES,
THE TONE AND THE CONTENT OF THE SPEECHES WERE CONSISTENT
WITH THE PARTY'S PRACTICE OF CRITICIZING SAFE TARGETS.

UNCLASSIFIED

SUCH AS THE OUSTED LEADERSHIP AND ITS "ADMINISTRATIVE-COMMAND SYSTEM." PERHAPS THE MOST SPONTANEOUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC REACTION OF THE CROWD WERE THE SHOUTS OF "MORE, MORE" AFTER DZHUROV ANNOUNCED THAT ONE OF THE DECISIONS AT THE PLENUM WAS TO STRIP TODOR ZHIVKOV, HIS SON VLADIMIR, AND OUSTED POLITBURO MEMBER MILKO BALEV OF THEIR BCP MEMBERSHIPS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SOFIA 06829 02 OF 02 151504Z

10. (C) WE ATTACH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT THE PARTY, WITH ALL ITS RESOURCES, COULD NOT ATTRACT A GROUP LARGER THAN 35,000. IN CONTRAST TO THE RALLIES OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUPS, THIS ONE HAD BEEN ADVERTISED IN THE MEDIA IN ADVANCE AND ALL BKP MEMBERS "ENCOURAGED" TO ATTEND. NEVERTHELESS, THE ATTENDANCE WAS LESS THAN THE MAJOR INDEPENDENT MEETINGS. IT IS ALSO A SIGN OF THE TIMES THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY FEELS OBLIGED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUPS IN HOLDING SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS. END COMMENT. MONTGOMERY

UNCLASSIFIED