NO PROOF OF ANY GUILT

The hearings relating to the assassination attempt on the Pope entered the crucial stage on Tuesday, Mikhail Ilyinsky,

Izvestia's Rome correspondent reports.

Within a few hours of the latest session, he met the Bulgarian lawyer, Dospevsky, legal adviser of Bulgarian citizen Sergei Antonov, and asked him to comment on the final phase of the trial. He said:

"All hearings have brought out the complete inconsistency and bias of the charges levelled against the Bulgarians. All impartial observers have seen the 'Bulgarian trace' proven non-existent, while the so-called 'circumstantial evidence' has turned out to have been based on slander prompted by certain social and political interests.

"It became obvious after an inquest and interrogation of the defendants and witnesses, the lawyer pointed out, that there has been no 'further proof of the guilt' of the Bulgarian citizens. There is no longer any need to persuade anybody that should such 'evidence' appear all of a sudden, it would be false from start to finish. In other words, there has been no evidence, nor could there be any, of the Bulgarian citizens' involvement in the assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square.

"Of course, it remains to be seen what kind of judgement public prosecutor Marini is going to make. If he does govern himself by the ideas of justice and the legal truth, he would have no option but to find that there is no proof of any kind to support the charge against the Bulgarian citizens.

"It is to be hoped that justice must prevail where Roman law was born. Sergei Antonov and the other Bulgarian citizens, libelled by Ali Agca, must be acquitted", the lawyer stressed.

(Izvestia, February 4. Summary.)

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AT THE TRIAL IN ROME: THE MYTH IS BLOWN M.Ilyinski

On February 11 there was a third series of hearings at Foro Italico in the closing stage of the trial involving the attempt on the life of the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

The prosecutor, A.Marini, kept reading the indictment
"Is it possible to draw any conclusions after the first
two sessions?" an <u>Izvestia</u> correspondent asked Sergei
Antonov's lawyer Giuseppe Consolo.

"Until Marini completes his speech, it is too early to make a final assessment of it," the lawyer said. "It is already getting clear, however, that the counsel for the prosecution has adopted an exceptionally 'tough' stand, is speaking in a tendentious manner, and is apparently deliberately leaving out concrete facts in his conclusions, attesting to the fraudulent nature of Agca's accusations and to the absolute innocence of Bulgarian citizens. But no manoeuvres and juridical tricks can obscure the main thing which is complete uninvolvement of Sergei Antonov and other Bulgarian citizens in the plot and the assassination attempt itself in St.Peter's Square in Rome on May 13, 1981."

"What is your attitude to the trial in Rome?" the Izvestia correspondent asked the well-known Italian public figure, General Nino Pasti.

"From the very start of the trial I have been certain of Antonov's innocence," the General replied. "One does not have to be a politician now to understand that the 'Bulgarian connection' is nothing but fiction - a myth which has been blown. This 'connection' has been deviously engineered by the Western secret services and firmly lodged in the minds of the masses in the West in order to compromise the socialist states

and to envigorate purposeful anti-socialist propaganda. Nor can it be ruled out that those who have originally invented the 'connection', which means Clair Sterling and Co., are harbouring new plots now. But now few people will believe the wild accusations of the terrorist Agca."

(Izvestia, February 12. Abridged.)

VORIO-860212-514

OLEG BITOV ABOUT THE TRIAL IN ROME

Literaturnaya Gazeta dated February 12 carries Oleg Bitov's article on the concluding stage of the papal murder plot trial.

The author writes: a direct interrogation of Francesco Pazienza, one of the leaders of the Italian secret service Sismi in the past, who is now a prisoner across the ocean, was never secured. Neither a speech by Paris Lawyer Christian Roulette -- the keeper of a Pazienza-compiled dossier on Sismi's collusion with hired killer Agca, nor a telegram by Pazienza himself to the presiding judge were of any help. It was in vain that the defence argued that Pazienza's interrogation in New York had been carried out with a violation of the norms of the Italian Criminal Procedure Code. Judge Severino Santiapiachi remained unyielding and rejected an extension of the court investigation.

None of those whom Pazienza had mentioned as possible witnesses and who could shed light on preparations for the assassination attempt on the Pope in Rome and on subsequent events ever entered the Foro Italico Hall either. There are dozens of them, without exaggeration — the leaders and agents of the "New Sismi", staff members the US CIA.

The same applies to a multitude of persons whose involvement in the preparation of the "provocation of the century" has been exposed as a result of journalistic investigations carried out by the press of a number of countries, including those by Literaturnaya Gazeta. It has been established, in particular, that CIA agents Paul Henze, Ruzy Nazer, Enver Altayli had been undoubted accomplices of Agca. Proofs of their guilt had been submitted to the Italian

judiciary long before the trial began. However, they never appeared either in the dock or in the witness box.

The Goddess of Justice, Themis, is traditionally portrayed blindfolded, the article goes on. All that we have witnessed during the preparation of the trial, and subsequently, too, suggests the following thought: is not it that the blindfold of present-day Rome judiciary has shifted, opening one eye which does not want to see anything which could show the real criminals and slanderers in their true colours, and which, on the contrary, eagerly looks for and notes the minutest details if they can be interpreted not in favour of the obviously innocent Bulgarian citizen? At least, this is how it has been so far, and the start of the concluding stage of the court examination does not bode changes, the author of the article emphasizes.

(Literaturnaya Gazeta, February 12. Summary.)

THE END

VORIO-850816-508

A SOVIET MAGAZINE ON THE ROME TRIAL

Enemies of socialism have not succeeded in fully abiding by the anti-Bulgarian script of the trial, which was contrived by them as a long-term propaganda and political action with the aim of discrediting socialist countries, the New Times weekly writes in its latest issue about the proceedings of the Rome trial in the "case of Antonov". Not a single fact has come out in court in more than two months to support Agca's allegations about his contacts with citizens of Bulgaria or any other socialist country. The courtroom hearings on the case have rendered inconsistent the "Bulgarian motivation" for the assassination attempt. The "Turkish connection" has clearly emerged: it was proved that Agca's associates -- Turks from the neo-nazi grouping "Grey wolves" -- were involved in the crime and that they had links with reactionary political

circles in Western countries and Italian underworld.

A whole number of circumstances have been made known, which prove that the "Antonov case" and the anti-Bulgarian script of the preliminary investigation and eventually of the trial itself had been concocted by Western secret services, specifically, the CIA and also the Italian military intelligence and the SISMI counter-intelligence.

New information, which is being brought to public knowledge, makes the outlines of the sinister conspiracy more and more apparent, the weekly writes. But those are the outlines not of a mythical Bulgarian conspiracy but of a quite real conspiracy of Italian and US secret services. At court hearings Agca failed to provide a single proof, a single judicially proven fact which could be checked up

irrespective of his statements and corroborate the existence of the "Bulgarian connection".

Conversely, it has become crystal clear that the so-called "circumstantial evidence" and "facts", given by Agca, are the result of the systematic espionage shadowing of the Bulgarian citizens working in Italy, their habits, movements and mode of life.

Lawyers' viewpoints converge in one point, namely, that no incriminating evidence against Antonov and his compatriots has so far been brought up in court, the New Times weekly points out. But one should take into account that in the whole of the "Bulgarian case" the calculation was made not on impartial and upright lawyers, but on ordinary public who are not keen on the intricacies of jurisprudence. The intensive anti-Bulgarian, anti-socialist and anti-Soviet pressure on the public of the capitalist world was contemplated to make if only a small impact. Their scheme was also meant to make the jury at the Rome trial, absorbed by the anti-Bulgarian atmosphere, arrive at the decision suitable to the masterminds of the provocation, since it is on the jury's decision that the outcome of the trial will depend.

Already today the stage is being set for the appearance in September, with resumption of the court session, of new witnesses suitable to Western secret services, who are meant to save Agca's bankrupt version, the weekly writes in conclusion. Intense struggle lies ahead for a just decision, for complete exposure of the anti-Bulgarian provocation.

(New Times No.34. Summary.)

WESTERN SECRET SERVICES PART OF THE PLOT

Statements by Abdullah Catli and Yalcin Ozbey, the two star witnesses of the Pope assassination attempt trial, came like thunderbolts, M.Ilyinsky writes in Izvestia.

"West German secret services offered Oral Celik and me 200,000 US dollars to come to West Germany and confirm the accusations Agea had levelled against Bulgarians. We refused as we did not want tobe West German police puppets," said Abdullah Catli, a leader of the terrorist group Grey Wolves, then doing a stretch in the Parisian La Santé for drug smuggling.

Why, then, were West German secret services so eager to have the two Wolves move from France to West Germany? Here is an explanation Catli offers: one Steiner (supposed alias, Keisler) of the Secret Service said that the French could obtain the unpalatable truth on the attempted assassination from the prisoners, whereas nothing threatened Celik or myself in West Germany. We were offered something more than money if we supported Agca's version: a chance to move to quiet countries where we could live untroubled ever after, said Catli. Yalcin Ozbey, also brought from West Germany, corroborated his accomplice's statement.

Summing up the results of the first four days of the second stage of the Rome trial, Ilyinsky says that one more serious blow to the so-called "Bulgarian connection" version, blow made by witnesses for the prosecution, not defence. The press have taken view that their statements may become a turning point. And another upshot: the participation of Italian, US, West German and French secret services in the preparations to assassinate Pope John Paul II has been made quite clear.

(Izvestia, September 23. Summary.)

TO WHOSE ORDER?

A Comment

V. Korionov

"Half-mad", "cheat", "psychopath" - this is how many western newspapers, even some rightist ones, characterised Turkish terrorist Ali Agca, the main witness of the prosecution at the trial in Rome, after he declared himself to be "Jesus Christ" and "almighty".

And suddenly everything changed in a trice. As if by magic, the press of the Right began to create around the terrorist a kind of a halo of a "truth fighter" while psychiatrists started claiming cheerfully that "everything is all right with his mind".

The point is that at last Agca began to say what the inspirers and organisers of the judicial farce expected him to say. The terrorist declared that in 1977 he was taught to use arms by ..."Bulgarian and Czechoslovak instructors". In conclusion of his "testimony" Agca exclaimed what had been so persistently drummed into him: "I state with confidence that the Soviet Union is the political and financial centre of international terrorism". The initiators of the court farce rubbed their hands with glee: "He has said it at last!"

But sober-minded people have no doubts about who these initiators are. They are the secret services of the USA and Italy. In his recently published book "Shots in Piazza di San Pietro" West German writer of political affairs Hubert Reichel notes with good reason: "When the CIA experts on secret operations take up the job and when 'witch hunting" begins, everything becomes possible! The 'Bulgarian trail' does not lead to Sofia or Moscow. Its return address is clearly visible: The CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, USA".

The "testimony", dictated to the hireling of the NATO

intelligence services, is a component of the campaign of slander engineered by the enemies of peace and international cooperation who spare no effort to convince the credulous people of the existence of a "communist terrorist plot". Today, when the protests against Washington's policy of state-sponsored terrorism are mounting everywhere, certain persons want to distract the peoples' attention from their foul deeds.

The mean scheme in Rome is needed also for further fanning anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism, for poisoning the political climate in Europe and for raising additional barriers in the way of the development of mutual understanding and cooperation of European states for the sake of peace and security of nations. It becomes perfectly clear once again that the enemies of the normalised international situation stop at nothing in a bid to attain their base aims.

(Pravda. June 10. In full.)

Ideological Battlefront

TRUTH VS. SLANDER

Nencho Khranov, Bulgarian journalist

In recent times, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has been an object of fierce attacks by those in charge of "psychological warfare" exercises. Our ideological adversary has been aiming to discredit our foreign and domestic policies. He has been raging, in particular, against the leading force of Bulgarian society -- the Communist Party.

Subversion centres, like Radio Free Europe, have been shamelessly slandering Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, calling our countries a "centre of international terrorism". Even U.S. Congressmen have joined in these propaganda outbursts. There has been an utterly unfounded charge about Bulgaria having become a kind of staging base for drug and arms traffic.

Moreover, there is the false argument that Socialist Bulgaria is out to "undermine the security of the West" and "destabilise" NATO countries. There are heaps of lies with arguments that would puzzle any impartial person.

Why is that fury against our country? The answer is simple. Those gentlemen are angry because the People's Republic of Bulgaria, a true friend and partner of the Soviet Union, an active member of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, is following a foreign policy of peace and promoting security and good-neighbourly cooperation in the Balkan Peninsula.

It is worth looking at some of the mud-slinging and subversion against Bulgaria to see the true state of things.

Drug addiction, hanging like a sword of Damocles over the younger generation of a number of Western countries, is something that has no room at all in our society. The

People's Republic of Bulgaria, lying as it does at a crossroads between the Middle East and Western Europe, has been making great efforts to cut short drug smuggling organised by international syndicates of criminals.

Here are some cases in point. In the last ten years, Bulgarian customs officials have uncovered 653 cases of drug smuggling, impounding a total of over 16 tonnes.

Criminals caught in the act have come from various countries, as Iran, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, or West Germany, to mention just a few. Not a single Bulgarian citizen has yet been found involved in this criminal business.

Beyond doubt, the spotlight in imperialist subversive propaganda against the PRB in recent times has been on the so-called "Bulgarian trace" in the story of the assassination attempt on the Pope in Rome's St. Peter's Square. For almost three years now the bourgeois media have been pouring out slander against Bulgaria and the Soviet Union in this connection. Referring to alleged evidence supposedly discovered during the inquest, they have been telling the public that the assassination attempt has been the handiwork of "Bulgarian secret services" linked up with Moscow.

However, the "case" which has been heard in the courtroom for terrorist trials in the Foro Italico sports complex has not produced the results the organisers of this foul anti-Socialist act have been expecting. This writer, together with journalists from various countries, has witnessed the despicable show in Rome for many days. Well, Agca's perjuries against Antonov have become clear to all. At the same time, still more obvious has been the criminal face of the organisers of this major anti-Socialist conspiracy.

There have been sensational revelations shedding light on the background to the "Bulgarian trace" story. Italian newspapers and magazines, Espresso, Mondo, Repubblica and Paese Sera have reported facts that have shocked all Italy.

The action against Bulgarian citizens has turned out to have been organised by Generals and officers of a criminal clan of Italian secret services closely connected with the CIA and mafia.

This is an international conspiracy aimed at vitiating the world's political climate still more, eroding the policy of dialogue and cooperation between nations, and slandering the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and other countries of the Socialist community.

A "slander trial", that is how it has come to be called. However, the organisers of this provocation have not resigned themselves to their failure. They keep on supporting the Turkish neofascist's insinuations. The object is obvious — to drag out the trial as long as possible so as to use it for their own anti-socialist propaganda ends. That is why, progressive sections of world opinion have been increasingly vocal in calling for the immediate and complete acquittal of Sergei Antonov and his release, and for his mates to be found not guilty.

Under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Bulgarian media are waging a hard ideological battle in the name of the truth and against slander. They are telling the truth about our country and about the self-sacrificing labour effort of its people engaged in building a socialist society, hand in hand with the Soviet Union and other sister nations, and uncompromisingly exposing the intrigues of the ideological adversary.

Sofia, August.

(Pravda, August 28. Abridged.)

A JUDICIAL FARCE IN ROME

"Contrary to the wishes of the orchestrators of the judicial farce in Rome, the so-called 'Bulgarian connection' is increasingly losing its credibility in the course of the trial which exposes ever new details about the macabre role of the 'Grey Wolves' and of the forces behind them", writes Pravda correspondent in Rome Gennadi Zafesov.

This, he continues, is confirmed by many other facts. Several hours before the resumption of the trial, officials at the Naples division of ANSA, a major Italian news agency, received an anonymous telephone call. The caller, speaking on behalf of the Grey Wolves said that the organization was planning new terrorist acts. To this he added that "the case of Orlandi will have a just epilogue". He referred to Emmanuela Orlandi, a daughter of a Vatican employee, who was abducted in Rome back in June 1983. The Italian press points out that this is the first time the Grey Wolves have publicly claimed responsibility for the abduction of Orlandi. Before that, all negotiations with the authorities concerning the fate of that girl were conducted on behalf of a mythical group called "Turkesh".

By the way, the Pravda correspondent continues, Agca himself has told a correspondent of Corriere della Sera that "there is no 'Turkesh' group; there are only 'Grey Wolves'. They want to exchange Orlandi for myself." At the end of last year when this interview was given it was not given any special attention. The latest developments show, however, that Agca knew what he was talking about.

In connection with the aforementioned anonymous call, the same Corrière della Sera writes: "Some outside forces are trying to influence Agca's behaviour and to let him realize

that he has not been forgotten." It should be noted, the paper continued, that the Turkish neo-fascist is highly "sensitive" to this sort of signals. In June 1983, exactly four days after the abduction of Orlandi, Agca demanded an urgent meeting with an investigation official for the formal inclusion in the protocol of his anti-Bulgarian allegations. In other words, having seen that his accomplices and their patrons were showing concern for him, the terrorist and assassin instantly paid the bill and launched an anti-Bulgarian and antisocialist campaign.

(Pravda, August 7. Summary.)

VORIO-850823

ANOTHER PERJURER

The judges and prosecutor conducting the trial of persons alleged to be involved in the attempt on the Pope's life have returned from the West German city of Bochum to Italy. They had spent several days there, interrogating Yalcin Ozbey, another member of the Turkish "Grey Wolves", <u>Izvestia</u>'s Rome correspondent Nikolai Paklin says in the newspaper.

Yalcin Ozbey was sentenced to a prison term in West Germany for drug trafficking. His term of a few months in prison runs out on September 23. But all this is just a front whereas the point is that Yalcin Ozbey was detained to be coached for the role of perjurer. As a "confidant" of the Turkish terrorist Ali Acga, who shot the Pope on St.Peter square on May 13, 1981, he is publicly to confirm at the Rome trial the "Bulgarian version" concocted by Western secret services.

This evidence is all the more important to the architects of the anti-socialist act of provocation today since the "Bulgarian version" was virtually committed to oblivion in public hearings at the trial because Ali Acga failed to cite a single fact to support it.

Yalcin Ozbey, the correspondent continues, was faced with the alternative of either confirming the Bulgarians' role in the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II -- and hoping for the lenience of the West German judicial authorities -- or being extradicted to Turkey to go to trial on charges of not only banditry but also of participation in the murder of a Turkish journalist. The "Grey Wolf" naturally has no wish to go to Turkey as he may well expect to be sentenced to die there. That is why he agreed to become a perjurer.

Yalcin Ozbey categorically denies a personal role in the conspiracy to assassinate the Pope, and with good reason: if he admits being involved, he will be put in the dock with a good chance of getting a life term.

The Italian press characterises as a sensation Valcin Ozbey's consent to cooperate with the judiciary and to come to the Rome trial as a "witness" to face Ali Acga in the courtroom. But one is entitled to wonder about the worth of the evidence of this new "witness". As everyone knows, he began talking to the Italian legal officers in Bochum with the demand that he be not extradicted to Turkey in exchange for his "evidence", the correspondent stresses.

(Izvestia, August 23. Summary.)

THE END

INTERVIEW IN LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

Here is an interview granted by the writer, Vladimir Karpov, Chairman of the Soviet National Committee in Defence of Antonov, to the Literaturnaya Gazeta (Literary Gazette) correspondent, published on June 19.

What are the objectives the Antonov Committee is setting itself?

Until the eleventh hour, the Soviet people, just like all wholesome people around the world, had still hoped that the provocative enterprise, known as the so-called "Antonov Case", would be dropped without trial, even if two and a half years late, and the Bulgarian citizen, falsely accused of a crime he had never committed, would regain freedom. When we saw our hopes dashed, we realised we could not any longer keep silent, and that the time had come to unite our efforts and express the common opinion of the Soviet public at the top of our voice.

We, Soviet people, have always been and shall be at the side of those unfairly persecuted. That was what we did when two Italians, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti fell victim to a frame-up across the Atlantic in the name of "supreme standards of democracy". That was what we did when Hitler's progenitors of the doctrine of "international terrorism" staged a disgraceful trial of a Bulgarian, Georgy Dimitrov. That is what we are doing now as well.

But we are not limiting ourselves to defending Sergei Antonov as an individual. It is clear to any unbiassed observer that he is guilty of nothing. It is just as clear that it is not Antonov alone but the nations of the Socialist community, our ideology, our mode of thinking, that those in Rome are trying to put in the dock. I, like all the other members of the Committee, agree with the conclusion made,

notably, in the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into the "Antonov Case", set up by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, that this is a political, not a criminal, case. This is one of the acts of the "crusade" against Communism, announced by President Reagan. Documents published in the Italian press itself, like the newspapers La Repubblica and Pace e Guerra, reports of the US Ambassador in Rome to his Washington chiefs, Agca's letter to the military attache of the US Embassy, have all proved beyond dispute that the "Antonov Case" has been masterminded by the Central Intelligence Agency and that our task is not only to defend an innocent man but also to expose the political background to this filthy enterprise.

What is the impression you have of the trial after the first few weeks? Do you trust that the court will ultimately find Antonov not guilty?

I am no lawyer, and our Committee is not a court to return a verdict of guilty or not guilty. But it does not take formal legal training to see that the charge is built on vicious slander and has nothing but slander to back it up. Even the Bible says that nobody will believe you if you have lied once. Now even the official examining judge, Martella has found Agca to have lied over a hundred times.

And yet the trial is still proceeding in such a way as to prompt one to recall the words of a famous West German political journalist, Hubert Reichel, who wrote even before the frame-up got under way that the myth about "Bulgarian involvement" was a burst soap bubble, unless, of course, CIA stooges Paul Henze and Claire Sterling were appointed judges, and Agca, the prosecutor. ...

It seems to me that the organisers of the provocation, seeing that it is aborting, are quite deliberately making a propaganda exercise of it. People all over the world have been

against the head of the Roman Catholic Church are Bulgarians. The Western press has selectively treated its readers to those of neo-fascist Agca's "confessions" which have been intended to bear out this spurious "version". This is what it is doing now as well by using Agca's fake stories as banner headlines. The design is that even if the trial falls through and Antonov is acquitted—it cannot be otherwise—that would not cross out the three years of lies altogether. Some will believe in the acquittal, while others will, perhaps, still feel that there is no smoke without fire. Some journalists have aptly remarked that this is a typically Goebbelsian stratagem: a lie, repeated many times, will stick, even after having been exposed as such.

What, specifically, does the Committee propose to do to help Antonov and make justice prevail?

We cannot, nor shall we exercise any pressure on the court, for we still hope that it will, as befits a court, find a way to remain impartial. We still hope that the Italian people, having adopted, after having overthrown the fascist regime, the most democratic Constitution in Western Europe, will be able, through their court, to tell the truth from the lie. But we cannot, nor shall we put up with the propaganda ballyhoo raised over the trial by certain quarters in the West, above all in the United States, with a view to discrediting Socialism.

We cannot put up with the persistent attempts being made to turn the court into a battlefield of psychological warfare, produce a legal rationale for the spurious charges against the Socialist countries and plant an ideological mine into the framework of confidence between peoples which is taking so hard an effort to build up.

Nor can we overlook the fact that the "Antonov Case" means

a glaring violation of human rights, monstrous flouting of international conventions and covenants which guarantee these rights and which, incidentally, have been ratified by Italy.

And we think our job is to bring the truth about this "case" and the climate around it home to the public.

The Committee is coming into contact with similar committees established in many countries—not only European, but also even such distant ones as Mexico and Canada. Expressing the will of the Soviet people we shall bend every effort to secure the triumph of justice, the release of the innocent man and the rehabilitation of the good names of Sergei Antonov and his two fellow-countrymen being tried in their absence.

(Literaturnaya Gazeta, June 19. Summary.)