

N. Hristova

Power and Intelligentsia. The Bulgarian 1968

(Summary)

The Bulgarian association for 1968 is connected above all with the theme of “Czechoslovakia”. This theme has proved very painful for the Bulgarian intellectuals who in the course of the years have formed a lasting complex with respect to the “Prague Spring”. Such dismal consequences were the result of not knowing or simply forgetting the concrete socio-political reality in this country at that time. The article briefly follows up the principal events in the political and cultural life in Bulgaria in this impressive year of 1968. An attempt is made to indicate both the measures of those in power to neutralize the impact of the processes in Czechoslovakia on the Bulgarian public and to differentiate the separate intellectual positions towards the administration and towards the “Prague Spring”. The analysis of the archival documents, publisher diaries and memoirs or the contemporaries gives grounds to draw the conclusion that in Bulgaria existed a liberally thinking and acting intelligentsia, formed in the years since the mid-50s. The Czechoslovak “tender revolution” influenced a number of its representatives but chiefly towards a more direct expression of civic behaviour and a more active defence of one’s value criteria.