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The Slavic Committee in Bulgaria: Institutional Development and Activities (1944-1982)

(Summary)

The current article is concerned with the establishment of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria in 1944 as a means of imposing Soviet influence on Bulgaria after World War II, as well as with the institutional development and organisational activity of the committee until the early 1980s. Having been ordered by Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party in 1961 to carry out deliberate propaganda among Bulgarian emigrant communities abroad, the Committee established contacts and worked primarily with the organizations of Bulgarian-Macedonian emigration abroad. The institutional development of the Slavic Committee underwent changes in the course of its activities and by the end of its existence it had become an organisation which had lost the respect and the trust of the people it had worked with. Thus, the state and political power in Bulgaria had to give the committee a new name in 1982 - Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, and to broaden its functions.