

**Lyubomila Solenkova**

**AN EXPERIENCED REALITY. VENETA LAMBEVA KANDEVA'S  
LIFE**

(Summary)

In the historical knowledge there are some very persistent myths. The process of modeling and changing them is long and difficult – carries out by the same people that became the leaders of the society. The myths connected with the Bulgarian communist-immigrants in the USSR in the period 20es – 30es of XX century are still alive. All too often in the public view they bore superhuman features and yet since 10 of November 1989 they were presented in quite the opposite light. What is the truth? The memoirs of Veneta Lambeva Kandeва, who experienced great misadventures in her life, but preserved her strong mind and will for life and learning are an interesting source for the Bulgarian immigrant's life in USSR after 1925. Her father, Lambi Kandeв, was murdered on 18–19 of April 1925 after the assault on church "St. King" (now "Sveta Nedelja"). Her mother, Raina Kandeва, was arrested on April 17. 1925; in 1938, already in USSR, she was arrested again during the Stalin repression. At the age of 12, Veneta had to take the care of her family and its maintenance. She managed to rescue her mother from a probable death sentence. She left for USSR in 1926, and spent there 19 years of her life – years filled with many emotions and sufferings. She met her husband Kamen Piskov and they had two children. She endured Stalin repressions and evacuation to village Kugarchi, Bashkirtstan. The end of the war found her in Moscow, working in a war factory. On several occasions she has asked support from Vasil Kolarov, than member of Kominter (IKKI), for different reasons, but if ever, it was given after

great difficulties. After her return to Bulgaria, because “we need now exactly these kind of people”, according to Georgi Dimitrov, the reality was quite different. There was no place for Veneta Kandeveva and her family to live and work in Sofia.