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**TESTIMONY OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS GEORGI
TSANKOV FROM JUNE 26, 1956 ON THE POLITICAL REPRESSIONS
AND PERVERSIONS IN BULGARIA IN THE YEARS OF STALINISM
(1948–1953)**

(Summary)

At the April plenum of the Central Committee (CC) of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) in 1956, a commission was elected to investigate the case of Traicho Kostov and the related trials. Georgi Tsankov, a member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP and Minister of the Interior since January 6, 1951, also testified before this commission. It is clear from his testimonies that political repression and perversion were softened after 1951, but political trials, new arrests of party and military activists continued to be held, and members of the CC of the BCP were subjected to agency recruitment. The expulsions of “politically inconvenient people” from the border areas and from the big cities of the country and the deportations to labor camps did not stop. G. Tsankov blamed the Secretary General of the CC of the BCP and Prime Minister Valko Chervenkov, the Soviet advisers of the Ministry of Interior, and the investigators from the Bulgarian State Security for the “violations of the socialist legality”.