

Bulgarian Scientific and Technical Intelligence in Japan during the Cold War

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Important References

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Archival Materials

Committee for disclosing the documents and announcing affiliation of Bulgarian citizens to the State Security and intelligence services of the Bulgarian National Army (CDDAABCSSISBNA)

CDDAABCSSISBNA. (2016). Collection “State Security and intelligence service of the General Staff of the Bulgarian National Army in Asia [1944-1991] Sofia.

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Purposes

To approach very specific aspect of Bulgaria-Japan interaction during the Cold War.

To supplement the Cold War studies and knowledge about Bulgaria-Japan relations as a part of Japan's relations with the Soviet Union and East European countries.

Premises

Opening an embassy in Tokyo in 1960

Western countries' restriction on high technologies' import in socialist world through Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM)

Japanese spectacular economic and technical growth at the end of 1960s and the beginning of 1970s

Estimation of Japan as a perspective destination for scientific and technical intelligence by Socialist countries

Personal admiration of Bulgarian Communist leader Todor Zhivkov to the Japanese economic model

Aims: acquiring secret information and items of the most contemporary scientific achievements for military and civil purposes

Priorities: electronics, chemical industry, mechanical engineering, military equipment

Objects of penetration: scientific and research institutes and centers, laboratories, manufactures, government institutions, regional and international economic associations, companies

Methods: using embassy, trade offices, joint ventures, Bulgarian students in universities and companies

Agents: educated and trained agents and associates

Difficulties: Japanese language barrier, cultural differences, Japanese counterintelligence

Conclusion

Success: expansion of agent apparatus and activities, improvement of organization and coordination between socialist secret services, improvement of agents' training, increasement of acquired data, increasement of acquired "valuable" information, implementation of acquired information in national industry, contribution to modernization of national economy

Failure: organizational and coordination issues, not enough information, not enough "valuable" information, not enough "valuable" connections, not completed tasks, not enough implementation