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*Student Cooperation between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia 1945–1950*

*Summary*

Immediately after World War Two Yugoslavia and Bulgaria wanted to establish as intensive cooperation as possible in the fields of culture, education and science. The tendency was reflected in establishing the relations and cooperation of Yugoslav universities with the University of Sofia, establishing contacts and cooperation of the students from the two countries and the increase in the number of Yugoslav students in Bulgaria. During the first post-war years the largest number of foreign students in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana, second only to Albanians, were Bulgarians. Similarly, a large number of students from Yugoslavia, particularly from Macedonia and eastern parts of Serbia, studied in Sofia. Student exchange involved reciprocal scholarships and was very soon regulated by an inter-governmental agreement, and in addition interested individuals were encouraged to study at their own expense. However, after the Information Bureau Resolution was published in 1948 and after the conflict of Yugoslavia with the Soviet Union and the countries of the “people’s democracy”, there was a sharp turn to colder political relations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and all types of cultural, educational and scientific cooperation were interrupted, and thus student cooperation and exchange discontinued as well. Moreover, the students who at the time were studying in the previously friendly country had come to experience, in the ensuing period, numerous unpleasant episodes, they were followed, persecuted, attempts were made to recruit them for intelligence services, and they were arrested and convicted as spies and enemies.