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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

DEFENCE POLICY SECTOR Institute for Strategic Research

THE SERBIAN (YUGOSLAV) - GREEK RELATIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

СРПСКО (ЈУГОСЛОВЕНСКО)-ГРЧКИ ОДНОСИ У ПРВОЈ ПОЛОВИНИ ДВАДЕСЕТОГ ВЕКА

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A TIP OF AN ICEBERG: BORDER INCIDENTS ON YUGOSLAV - GREEK BORDER 1945 - 1948AND THEIR CONCEQUENCES ON YUGOSLAV - GREEK RELATIONS

Abstract: Immediately after the end of WWII Greece has entered into bloody civil war. Yugoslav support to one of the confronted sides and many clashes that have happened in vicinity of the state borders led to the occurrence of numerous border incidents from 1946 till 1949. Followed by the thousands of refugees these incidents have even caused intervention of the United Nations. However, Yugoslav conflict with the USSR and the rest of the communist world after the expulsion of Yugoslav Communist Party from Cominform 1948 led to the conflict with Greek communists and slowly reconciliation with official Greece. This article is based primarily on archival sources, published documents, and to less extent literature.

Keywords: Greece, Yugoslavia, border incidents, DAG, refugees, Markos Vafiadis, Nikos Zachariadis, Albania.

Introduction

Due to the complex international situation in the post-war period, there were two completely opposite border regimes on Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) border. Unlike Western countries: Austria, Italy, Free Territory of Trieste and Greece, the border regime in the countries of "people's democracy" corresponded to friendly relations that were present at that time. The feeling of being identical, an economic and ideological unity, solidarity and belonging to the "camp of socialist countries" was more than clear reason for brotherhood