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Control: 13136  
 Rec'd: February 15, 1965  
 6:21 p.m.

FROM: Sofia  
 ACTION: Secstate 506, Immediate

DATE: February 15, 11 p.m.

LEGTEL 505

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
 State Dept. Guidelines

By fw, NARA, Date 1-19-00

Legation believes February 15 attack ran off according to Bulgarian regime script. Firm reaction called for, not only out of consideration for US posture world-wide but also (insofar as possible) to forestall more such incidents here.

Legation recommends following steps:

- (1) Suggest Department call in Bulgarian Minister at high level, for protest in strongest possible terms;
- (2) Recommend no public announcement be made of appointment new Minister for next few weeks anyway, and that Bulgarian Government be made aware of cause of delay;
- (3) Propose Legation be authorized deliver third person protest note directly to Foreign Minister on February 16, if possible, worded as follows:

"Legation of USA refers to conversations with the Foreign Ministry on February 15 concerning the attack which took place on that date against the Chancery and residence. On instructions from the US Government in Washington, the Legation protests strongly the fact that again the Bulgarian Government has failed to provide the Legation adequate police protection against mob attack. On February 15 there was advance notice of at least an hour that groups with anti-American propaganda slogans were out on the streets of Sofia. The US Legation /took steps

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-2- 506, February 15, 11 p.m. from Sofia

took steps to remind the Bulgarian Government of the presence of these mobs, and to request police protection to keep demonstrators from the street in front of the Legation. Nonetheless, there was no special police protection stationed on the street in front of the Chancery nor at the Legation residence when the demonstrators arrived. Large mobs were thus permitted access to our properties to hurl stones and other objects.

The failure of the Bulgarian Government to take steps to repel these mobs until after they had arrived is a matter of very serious concern to the US Government. In view of the ample advance notice afforded, it can hardly be argued that the attack took place without the Bulgarian Government's awareness. For the third time in the past fourteen months, mobs have been allowed to jeopardize US personnel and property in Sofia.

The Government of the United States has taken note of the Bulgarian Government's expression of willingness to provide compensation for damages, and of its expressions of regret. The US Government remains concerned, however, over the failure of the Bulgarian Government to abide by the customary standards governing the treatment of diplomatic missions by host countries. Instances of failure to afford protection to US officials and property in Sofia affect directly the means by which US relations with Bulgaria are conducted, and hence nothing could have a more damaging effect on the course of these relations."

Request Department instructions by IMMEDIATE telegram.

GP-4.

JOHNSON

TRT/19

Advance Copy to S/S-0 2/15/65, 7 p.m.

Note: Passed White House 2/15/65, 7:25 p.m.

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