

Access to World War Guns For Softer Roles

By CAROL KENNEDY DENHAM, England (CP)—Honor Blackman feels the time is coming when she must hang up her pistols and swap her boots and leather suits for more feminine garb.

Until last year this honey-blond, blue-eyed actress was a bit of a mystery—her name had played English rose types in some 20 British movies. Now she is known across the nation as the girl whose way with men is to bounce them off the wall like basketballs.

The transformation came when the producers of a television espionage series called *The Avengers* decided to cast a woman as one of the two chief characters, a pair of trouble-shooting secret agents who specialized in unarmed combat.

The experiment was so successful that Cathy Gale with her kinks and her "kinky" leather outfits became something of a cult among British girls.

Coinciding as the series did with the Paris fashion for leather and knee-boots—warfare by Cathy when preparing for action—it sometimes seemed as if all Chelsea was full of female avengers.

WANTS SEXY ROLES

"I must have been the only woman in London who didn't own a pair of boots last winter," chuckled Miss Blackman as she reclined in skin-tight mauve suede pants on the set of the new James Bond picture "Goldfinger," in which she plays the female gangster Pussy Galore.

It may be the last tough-gal part for some time if Miss Blackman gets her way, she would like to play softer roles with more sex appeal, though she says the film version of *Pussy Galore* has plenty of "oomph."

She finds the image of Cathy Gale hard to shake off even in

her with the TV character, who as well as being a judo expert was also an intellectual prodigy, forever amazing her male colleague in *The Avengers*, the suave man-about-town played by Patrick MacNee, with knowledge of the most obscure subjects.

Most of her fan mail during the series came from women, and most of the disapproving letters—some violently abusive—were written by men.

"They seemed to feel the character was somehow an insult to their sex. Some of the letters were so bad the television company wouldn't let me see them."

ACTED IN ONTARIO

Honor Blackman's real personality is far removed from her TV self-warmly feminine and with a spontaneous charm not in the least "actressy." She has no qualms about revealing her age—37—and reacted with delight to a reporter's suggestion that she might be successful in the maturely seductive type of role played by France's Simone Signoret. "I was only half as good an actress as she is."

Like her TV partner Patrick MacNee, Honor Blackman has had acting experience in Canada. In 1952, visiting Toronto with her first husband, she played in *Crime Passioned* at the Museum Theatre, and also a summer season in *The Impostor* at the Theatre Francaise and *The Glass Menagerie* in Ontario's Muskoka district.

Although she says her ideal way of life is "really very sheltered," she confesses to getting a kick out of physical violence. She became a judo Yellow Belt with more sex appeal, though she says the film version of *Pussy Galore* has plenty of "oomph."

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Bulgaria Still Friend of Russia's

Of all the Communist regimes in East Europe, Bulgaria is the most firmly tied to the Soviet Union. While change is a constant through other Communist countries, Bulgaria remains faithful to the Kremlin. Richard O'Regan, Associated Press chief of bureau in West Germany, explains the reasons behind this in the following last of four articles on the situation in East Europe.

By RICHARD O'REGAN

SOFIA (AP)—Despite all the troubles he is having with his Communist allies Soviet Premier Khrushchev has one true and faithful friend in East Europe—Bulgaria.

Romanians may be turning their backs on Moscow, Poles and Hungarians may be pursuing their own brands of communism and Czechs may be flaying around looking for ways out of the economic mess communism has led them into, but Bulgaria is cooler in its relations with the United States than Moscow and Bulgaria has given the Soviet Union almost complete say over its economic life. It is the most Stalinist of all East European Communist countries.

Much of the reason for the close ties to the Kremlin is due to the traditional friendship of 6,000,000 Bulgarians—whether or not they like communism—for Russia. Bulgarian pride in giving the Russians the Cyrillic alphabet and the fact that for almost 1,200 years Bulgaria has never considered itself part of Europe.

Said one Western diplomat working here:

"You can be sure that if other Communist nations turn away toward the West, Bulgaria will be the last to do so. If they get tougher toward the West, Bulgaria will be the first after Moscow."

CONTROLS LESS STRICT

It is perhaps Bulgaria's lack of identity with Western Europe which accounts for a striking fact that meets the Western visitor on arrival: Border controls to the West are less strict in Bulgaria than elsewhere in East Europe.

"Very few Bulgarians think of escaping to the West," a diplomat explained.

The diplomats and other Westerners in Sofia report:

Bulgarians still are discouraged from talking to Westerners. Political jokes are a punishable offence, even though they are a favorite pastime elsewhere in the East.

Deportations of "political unreliable" from the cities to the countryside are still occurring frequently, although shortage of housing is often given as the reason.

HAVE SPY MANIA

A spy mania has been built up around all Westerners and the public has been urged to report on the movements of foreigners.

Bulgarians are barred from entering the American legation and there now are two militiamen to stop them. Six months ago there was only one. Next door is a big anti-American display.

The cause of this policy of bul-

garia was summed up by Communist Chief Todor Zhivkov when he told a party congress:

"There must be an intransigent struggle against bourgeois ideology and the decadent influences of the capitalist West."

He charged the West with using press, radio, movies, music and dancing to corrupt Bulgarian youth and declared war on all attempts by artists to introduce Western ideas into literature, theatre and art.

RELATIONS FROZEN

Relations with the U.S.—interrupted for 10 years between 1950 and 1960—came to a new freeze after youths rioted in front of the American Legation last December and overturned American cars.

But since the Bulgarians apologized, there have been indications that Moscow has told Zhivkov Bulgaria is lagging in co-existence and should loosen up a little.

Diplomats in Sofia are not certain, but they believe a struggle may be going on for power within the Bulgarian government among three factions. Old-time Stalinists, a group of young Communists with more modern, more Western ideas, and the men in power.

They think Bulgaria's secret police, still very much in evidence, may be run by Stalinists who are still making it difficult for the party to carry out any change at all.

On the other hand, the party leadership has been criticized by liberalized liberals who want radical solutions to Bulgaria's economic problems.

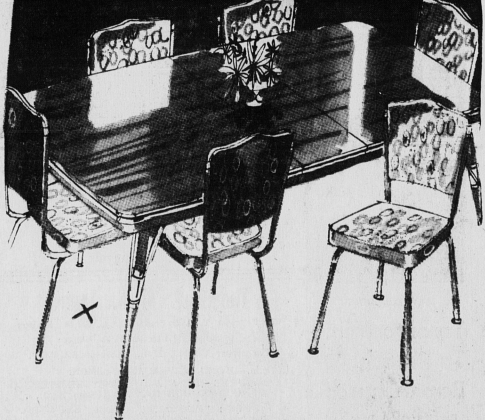
Before communism took over, agriculture was Bulgaria's major industry. The Communists have been placing emphasis on building up industry and now industrial production exceeds agriculture in value.

"This has left Bulgarians short of food. Last winter there was a major bread shortage in towns and cities.

Economic observers here say the standard of living has improved over the last two years, but it is harder for the average Bulgarian to get by on his pay than any other East European.

Life in the country villages—where farms are all either collectivized or part of co-operatives—is said to be better than in neighboring Greece.

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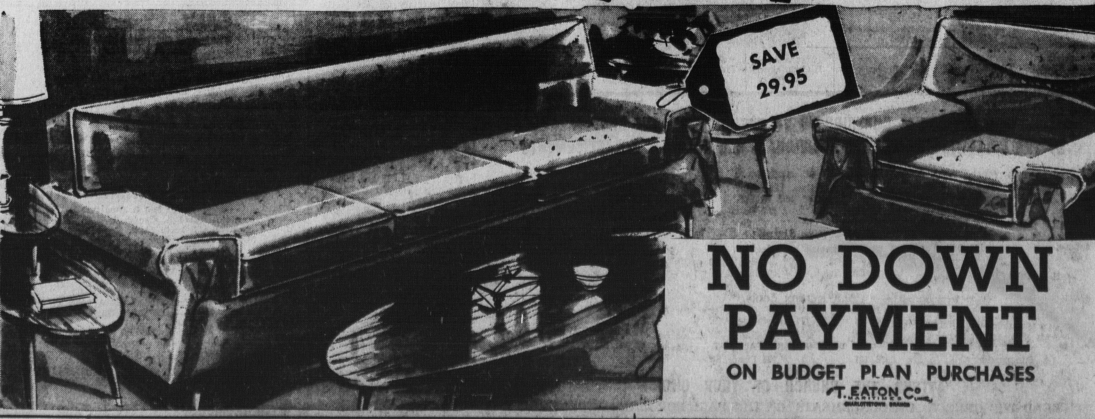
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