

Tzvetan Vassilev's Interview for "Simply Dikoff," BITelevision

Part II, 27 November 2016

English Translation of the Transcribed Version

DIKOV: When did Boyko Borissov promise you that he would save Corpbank?

VASSILEV: Boyko Borissov was promising that he would save Corpbank during the whole period of its collapse. He was constantly sending messages that he would save the bank.

DIKOV: Well, Corpbank was closed in June (2014) when he was in opposition.

VASSILEV: Yes, that is right. However, it was clear that the parliamentary elections will take place earlier.¹ His condition was that he had to win the parliamentary elections, so that he could save Corporate Commercial Bank. That is why I worked actively on a proposal for a shareholder bail-out: a consortium with the participation of a consulting company from Vienna and the shareholders from Oman was set up.² The Omani shareholders were leading the consortium. Meanwhile, shareholder proposals about saving Corpbank were made. The bank's main assets were free from any encumbrances.

DIKOV: He asked for something, did he not?

VASSILEV: No, he did not ask for anything. Neither he nor I imposed any conditions. My condition was to save Corpbank. At that time, of course, there were no debt assignments³—those debt assignments that completely distorted the picture inside the bank. Part of the assets passed in other hands at a very underestimated value.

DIKOV: I remember very well, there was a meeting of the Parliament's Budget Committee, which took 4 or 5 hours, and (the Governor of Bulgaria's central bank at that time) Iskrov, other people from the central bank and (the Chair of the Parliament's Budget Committee) Menda Stoyanova participated in it. This meeting ended with a declaration to save Corpbank.

VASSILEV: Quite so.

DIKOV: At 9 am the following morning, Boyko Borissov told Parliament just the opposite.

¹ Parliamentary elections were held in October 2014. Oresharski's government which came to power in 2013 did not finish its term.

² The State General Reserve Fund Oman is the second largest shareholder in Corpbank with a share of around 30%.

³ Corpbank's "special supervisors" allowed the exchange of debt for deposits between clients of the bank.

VASSILEV: This question is not for me. I also have the same question.

DIKOV: I attended that meeting of the Budget Committee and I listened for hours. Firstly, Iskrov's behavior was totally absurd. They asked him: "What is happening, what is your opinion?" He said: "I have no opinion". "Shall we save the bank or not?" "I have no opinion, I do not know." Menda Stoyanova said that it was best to take a decision to have a last try to save the Bank. And in the next morning, suddenly...

VASSILEV: Iskrov was manipulated by the Prosecution Service and by Peevski. Obviously, he has never expressed his own opinion. Even the declaration from the notorious news conference⁴ of Iskrov on July 11, 2014 is hardly written by him. A lot can be said about Iskrov. And about Dimiter Kostov and about Neli Kordovska.⁵ Many things will be revealed now. Many things.

DIKOV: Let me bring you back to the drama with Slavcho Hristov (*businessmen and former banker*). How could he manage to transfer his C-Bank to Tsvetelina Borislavova (*banker and former girl-friend of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov*)?

VASSILEV: Maybe they had prepared the same plot for me as well. If they had managed to arrest me, something like that might have happened to me too. As they had no other reason to arrest me, they thought out the notorious Peevski's murder conspiracy.⁶ This was the reason to both arrest me and enter the offices.⁷ In order to cause panic! Their ultimate goal was to cause panic and to make Corpbank kneel down, so that they can take control of it.

DIKOV: Why did Slavcho Hristov transfer his bank to Tsvetelina?

VASSILEV: Ask Slavcho Hristov. Maybe he had to save his life.

DIKOV: They have him something in Golden Sands (*a Black Sea resort*).

⁴ Iskrov accused Vassilev of taking more than 200 million in plastic bags from Corpbank in June 2014. His accusation was easily disproven since Vassilev was not in Bulgaria at the time and 200 million in plastic bags cannot go unnoticed in the center of Sofia.

⁵ Dimiter Kostov and Neli Kordovska were part of the management of Bulgaria's central bank; Following Corpbank's closure, investigative journalists revealed Kordovska who was head of the Banking Supervision unit of the central bank at the time withdrew her deposit from Corpbank during the bank run in June 2014 in conflict of interests. See, for example: http://www.miroivanov.com/2015/02/blog-post_2.html

⁶ The bank run started when the Bulgarian Prosecution Service arrested three innocent men on June 13th, 2014 for an alleged murder plot against Peevski. The Prosecution Service alleged that Vassilev had commissioned the murder plot. Later, the Bulgarian court found there was no prove of such crime. The Prosecutor General Tsatsarov said they made a "mistake" much later in July.

⁷ The Prosecution Service entered Vassilev's offices on June 13th, 2014 in a spectacular raid which was shown live on all major TV stations. It is unclear how all TV stations knew about the raid and were prepared for live reporting.

VASSILEV: They left him something. Yet, I am not acquainted in detail. That is why, I cannot speak and do not want to speak.

DIKOV: **The plan was to arrest you and pressure you to transfer whatever you have, was it not?**

VASSILEV: And not only that. They could have also done something else. They have experience. For instance, Misho Birata (*Misho the Beer: a businessman, producer of beer, who died in mysterious circumstances*). There are many examples like that. They are very creative when it comes to that.

DIKOV: **Misho Birata died from a heart attack after a night of passionate love, the official report said.**

VASSILEV: Probably.

DIKOV: **Well, you say that political changes should take place, so that you can start lawsuits. What should happen? Is this the first stage?**

VASSILEV: No, I have already started court proceedings. I have filed two claims in Strasbourg (*The European Court of Human Rights*), as the Bulgarian court refuses justice, violates the law. I think we need a political change, so that I have any chance of a fair court trial Bulgaria. I have the penal proceedings in mind. Otherwise, the commercial litigation regarding the withdrawal of Corpbank's assets has ended.⁸ That is why we have two lawsuits against Bulgaria in Strasbourg for violation of human rights and refusal of justice in Bulgaria.

DIKOV: **Why do you attach such big significance to the Monterey Circle (a circle of generals and diplomats of the former Communist regime named Monterey after a restaurant in which they used to meet)? These elderly people? Are they really that important?**

VASSILEV: I used *Monterey* as a synonym, a symbol of what Bulgarian secret services do behind the curtain. I do not attach any particular importance to those people wearing Pampers. Other people pull the strings now. However, I repeat, people in Bulgaria are held in subordination. The people, I mean the business elite and the politicians, are held in subordination by means of discrediting. Whether this discrediting involves giving and taking money or something else is another issue. However, this is what is happening in Bulgaria.

DIKOV: **Do you mean "everybody has their weakness – women, alcohol, drugs and corruption"?**

VASSILEV: If this weakness is documented in a suitable way, it can be used to easily subordinate certain people.

⁸ The Bulgarian court, in violation of Bulgarian law and in violation of case law by the European Court of Human Rights against Bulgaria, declared that shareholders do not have a legal interest in appealing the withdrawal of a banking license, thus avoiding to examine the dispute on the merits.

DIKOV: I am sure that you also have such documents for quite a lot of people. Admit that you have such documents.

VASSILEV: My ethics and my way of thinking has not allowed me to do what those who are my moral mentors now have done. My moral mentors are people buried up to here (*shows his forehead*) in filth, meanness, vileness and intrigues. All this because of one thing. Only because of envy. I can see now how much envy there was in those who organized this literally *coup* against Corpbank. How much envy!

By the way, one of the philosophers of the Enlightenment, Claude Adrien Helvétius, said that under the flags of envy, greed, intrigues and treason march together. We have all of those present here. All of them. Now I understood that Peevski wanted to be a banker. Through (*Turkish businessman*) Fuat Guven and (*Turkish*) Demir Bank he tendered for Victoria Bank.⁹ It turned out that Peevski wanted to become the owner of Technomarket. By the way, why doesn't (*finance minister*) Goranov check how exactly his subordinates missed that 100% of Technomarket, i.e. 85 % of Technomarket passed into the hands of Miroglio (*Italian investor in Bulgaria*) without Miroglio paying a single lev?

DIKOV: But he owns something there, I think?

VASSILEV: A debt assignment. Yes, but this debt assignment is for the turnover capital of Technomarket which was repaid. You have a company, which makes 400 million in sales per year, you always have about BGN 10 – 20 million in TV sets and refrigerators in stock. Isn't that so? Technomarket is a lost asset for Corpbank acquired by Peevski. It is very strange why it was acquired through Miroglio. In the same way, DOMO Romania is a lost asset for the Bank. Nobody speaks about DOMO Romania! The third largest chain of household electronics and kitchen equipment in Romania with sales of over 200 million euro per year. Not a single stotinka was repaid to Corpbank from there either.

DIKOV: You should know what they control Tsatsarov with if they control him, of course.

VASSILEV: I cannot know what they control Tsatsarov with. However, it is obvious that Tsatsarov is not free in his decisions.

DIKOV: I have even heard from a man whom I trust that under some form you have participated in the financing of Tsatsarov's appointment.

VASSILEV: I have not financed Tsatsarov's appointment. If it was financed by anyone, then it was financed by Peevski. I cannot speak about that. But this is not the only problem. Financing the election does not mean ultimate fidelity and loyalty.

DIKOV: As far as I remember, the appointment was financed by the two camps. There was an agreement between the two camps: one of the camps had to make a compromise and agree to appoint Tsatsarov and that that party was motivated with your money.

⁹ Corpbank acquired the Bulgarian branch of Credit Agricole in June 2014 and rebranded it as Victoria.

VASSILEV: I still claim that initially Boyko Naydenov was Peevski's man. And it is a fact that Boyko Naydenov was Peevski's man because after he was not appointed, he went started working for Doreco Commerce or Doreco Security (*companies owned by Peevski*) or something like that. Their closeness is a fact. And it is also a fact that at a certain stage the two camps, understand Borissov-Tsvetanov, on the one hand, and Peevski, on the other hand, found their compromise in the current Chief Prosecutor. What the price of this agreement was, I do not know. I have neither participated in these negotiations nor have I been part of the financing. However, it is evident that the Chief Prosecutor performs conscientiously his promises to both camps.

DIKOV: What do you think will happen in the next few months?

VASSILEV: Bulgaria is in the worst shape ever. I have always been an optimist that things could not get worse. I was an optimist that nothing could be worse than the first government of Borissov. But then the government of Oresharski came to power. After the government of Oresharski, I thought it was impossible to go below the bottom. But then the so-called wide coalition government came to power together with Peevski.

Still, I expect positive changes. The nation rebelled. People said "no" to this status-quo, "no" to what has happened so far. We want a change. How and in what way this wave of dissatisfaction will be ridden by politicians is another issue. "Ridden" in the bad sense of the word. And who is going to use this dissatisfaction of the people? Anyway, I hope that things will change for the better as what Borissov wanted to achieve in his government was a "grand slam" against the basic principles of democracy and separation of powers. To threaten that you will resign, that you will throw the country into chaos, that all your mayors will resign just because the people voted for another presidential candidate instead of yours! Considering the limited functions of the President in Bulgaria, this means only one thing: arrogance.

DIKOV: And finally, a question about your living situation: what money do you live with? Didn't they freeze all your assets?

VASSILEV: With what money? They froze everything indeed. They think that we should photosynthesize. We managed, however, to sell some property at the beginning...property for which the Commission for Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Assets has claims now on. This is how we managed somehow. Moreover, we have a lot of friends, including friends in Serbia, who help us to survive.

DIKOV: Any plans for South Africa? This is what Veska Medjidieva did... (former banker accused for the bankruptcy of Bulgarian Agrarian and Industrial Bank. She fled to South Africa)

VASSILEV: South Africa with Veska Medjidieva? If I had wanted to go to South Africa, I would have gone there on June 16, 2014.

DIKOV: Four days before Corpbank's closure?

VASSILEV: My private jet was in Vienna at that time.

DIKOV: Why did you not go?

VASSILEV: Because I am not guilty of anything and I want to prove it. During all that time, I wanted to save Corpbank, not my wealth. I wanted to save Corpbank as thousands, tens of thousands of people suffered from Corpbank's artificial insolvency. They suffered because of the greed of a few people in this country, because of the corruption of the state institutions.

By the way, now is the time to say that in May 2016 this year, leading law firms made a presentation before the US State Department. The main topic of the presentation was that Corporate Commercial Bank was a classic case of corporate raiding, which means robbing, appropriation of assets of a business or political competitor with the assistance of state institutions.

DIKOV: I remember that there was a very dramatic meeting with President Plevneliev regarding Corpbank or rather Corpbank's closure. After that meeting, Members of Parliament requested him to make the verbatim report of the sitting public. To my greatest surprise, President Plevneliev decided to keep the minutes of the meeting secret. What is this story about and what can be done regarding this issue?

VASSILEV: I have no idea what this is about and I would appeal to the newly elected President to make the verbatim reports of the meetings with the President public, so that we can understand the positions of politicians at the time. I have heard all sorts of versions of the said verbatim report, but I believe the truth is important. I believe that this verbatim report or these verbatim reports practically reveal the "omertà" (*the omertà is the code of practice of the Italian Mafia; the requirement to remain silent about crimes the mafia has done*) of all political forces in Bulgaria. This explains also the unanimous decision of the Bulgarian Parliament of November 6 (2014) about the bankruptcy of Corpbank.

DIKOV: The so-called "bank vacation," was that the term?

VASSILEV: The decision did not concern the "bank vacation." The bank vacation was one of the proposals, at least this is what I have read—yet this proposal did not concern the banking crisis at all. They did not discuss at all how to go out of this banking crisis. It would be interesting whether Corporate Commercial Bank was part of the plan to save the banks. Obviously, Oresharski's government and Bulgaria's central bank lied to and misled the European Commission that the plan concerned all banks. After they lied and received permission to provide state aid to all Bulgarian banks, they took a decision to annihilate Corporate Commercial Bank.

DIKOV: On the other hand, they provided state aid to First Investment Bank, didn't they?

VASSILEV: Yes, they provided state aid to First Investment Bank for the second time.

DIKOV: Basically, this verbatim report would reveal what position all participants in the meeting held?

VASSILEV: I certainly think that the general public should know this.

DIKOV: This really could be a very strong move for Radev, I think. Let us hope he would be able to find the strength for that.

VASSILEV: I think that nothing should deter him. Moreover, the issue of the so-called Corporate Commercial Bank “affair” was raised before presidential candidates by representatives of the civil society. Practically, with the exception of Traycho Traykov maybe, everyone avoided the topic. Now is the time for the newly elected President to show that he can do things that would strengthen the role of the presidential institution. Because, currently, the presidential institution is the only beam of light in the darkness of the state institutions overtaken by the Mafia.

DIKOV: Recently, I have read some shocking reports about how Corpbank’s receivers in bankruptcy spend an enormous amount of money for support, for consulting contracts, for legal services, and so on. Do you have any information regarding what this is all about?

VASSILEV: In principle, I divide what happened to Corpbank in two periods—before June 20th, 2014, and after June 20th, 2014. Until 20 June 2014, Corpbank controlled sufficient assets to cover its liabilities. After 20 June 2014, the disintegration carried out with the assistance of the conservators and the receivers in bankruptcy started.¹⁰ Corpbank’s current receivers do not have the required level of competence by law, they come from the rabble of the nation. Goranov’s argument (*the finance minister*) that they selected them from Troyan (*a really small town in Bulgaria from which Mondeshki, Peevski’s money box, is*) to ensure their independence is not serious! Why did they choose people from Troyan? In order to be able to influence them through Mondeshki and Alexander Angelov. These receivers take the liberty to spend 3 and a half time more money for administrative and management expenses than when Corpbank was functioning properly and earning an average annual profit of BGN 600 million after taxation. This is their management!

It is a public secret that through fictitiously raised claims against debtors Corpbank, claims whose goal is to absorb funds through legal services rather than to collect money for Corpbank, over BGN 120 million has been drained from the mass of insolvency so far. And this is only for legal fees—in principle, they have hired several law firms while this job can be done by Corpbank’s in-house legal counsel. There are sufficient reasons to consider that enormous part of this money goes back to those who control the receivers, the insolvency of the bank and the theft of assets. It is very interesting to see what will be found if they make a check, a sudden tax check of the accounting of these law firms.

DIKOV: 120 million?

VASSILEV: 120 million. They say that 75% of these 120 million went back to Peevski and the other organizers and controllers of the insolvency of Corpbank.

¹⁰ On June 20th, 2014 Corpbank applied for “special supervision” or “conservatorship”—a special procedure whose aim is to bring a bank back on track under the management of the central bank. After its closure, Corpbank was managed by conservators/special supervisors. When the state decided to induce its bankruptcy, receivers in bankruptcy were appointed: their work was managed by the ministry of finance.

DIKOV: By the way, who is that mythical person Mondeshki?¹¹

VASSILEV: It seems Mondeshki is the person who used to be the “money box” of Vladimira Yaneva (*former President of Sofia City Court against whom pre-trial proceeding have been launched over a recent scandal with an illegal taping; her connections with the mafia were also revealed via leaked tapings in a scandal known as “YanevaGate”*).¹² The close connection between Mondeshki and Alexander Angelov (*Peevski’s friend and lawyer*) dates back from the time before the plot against Corpbank and I know it. It seems Modeshki’s current task is to organize and supervise the activities related both to the current draining of Corpbank and to hiding the traces of the organizers of the *coup* in the bank.

DIKOV: Well, he came out with some idiotic interpretation of the tapings with Judge Yaneva, Judge Chenalova and him (*Dikov refers to the YanevaGate scandal: tapings of conversations between the three of them showing lack of separation of powers in Bulgaria were leaked*)

VASSILEV: An idiot could only come up with an idiotic explanation. Who would believe him that they have gathered together just to play a radio show? Besides that, I am not a fan of any of them, especially that Chenalova was the judge that declared the insolvency of TC-IME. By this judgment, they prevented the opportunity for management of the asset Vivacom. But at any rate, the content of this “show” reveals the true extent of corruption of the judiciary, if you can call them judiciary at all given the level of corruption.

DIKOV: At the same time, they have accused Judge Chenalova several times that she has come here, here in Belgrade, to see you.

VASSILEV: I do not know where Judge Chenalova was. I repeat—Chenalova was the judge who declared TC-IME insolvent over a fictitious claim by a company of Peevski.

DIKOV: Has she come here to see you?

VASSILEV: Chenalova has not come to see me. However, Judge Chenalova has sent letters of complaint to the European Commission. And despite the fact that I am angry with her because she attacked TC-IME and made the work of those who organized the plot against Corpbank easier, I can only say now that I support her position. Because everybody has their right to catharsis. I have also made mistakes.

DIKOV: Is it true that both the government and the Prosecution Service sent emissaries to you for negotiations. For some agreement?

¹¹ Investigative journalists have revealed some of the schemes of corruption involving Mondeshki: <https://bivol.bg/mondeshki-brothers.html>

¹² On YanevaGate, see the site for investigative journalism Bivol.bg: <https://bivol.bg/en/yaneva-gate-everything-from-season-1.html>

VASSILEV: No, emissaries were sent only at the beginning, during the summer of 2014, with some shameful and indecent proposals. They just wanted to mislead me given my desire to prove that I was not guilty. They wanted to make me their servant, a puppet on strings, or...to kill me, there was enough evidence of their intentions. Yes, indeed.

DIKOV: *Physical liquidation? (Under Stalinism, physical liquidation was a term used for the murder of enemies)*

VASSILEV: Yes, indeed.

DIKOV: *In that light, Ivo Prokopiev¹³ implied that the threats against his life came from you. And because of that he met with Boyko Borissov a few years ago and after that he left the country.*

VASSILEV: Regarding the case of Ivo Prokopiev, just take a look at the Afera (*Afera.bg*) news website of December 2013. While I am not a big fan of Afera.bg, on their website you can find an interview with a member of the so-called “Killers” Group, Pesho Stoyanov Sumista (*Pesho Stoyanov the Sumo Fighter*) who says: “I forced to testify that Tzvetan Vassilev ordered the murder of Ivo Prokopiev.” I have no doubt that this “accident” of 2010 was once again initiated by the same secret services under the control of Borissov and Tsvetanov with the purpose of tarnishing my reputation in some way. Honestly, I understand Prokopiev’s point of view. It is natural for a man to be afraid for his life, especially when you make him believe that, you see, this guy has a reason to do it as you write against him, somebody spies on you. All this story is a typical staging by the cops, so that they can blame me at the end. Borissov—I do not know when Propokiev spoke about this incident publicly—asked me to have a meeting with Prokopiev as he was worried that I might do something regarding him. Mr. Prokopiev and I met in 2010. He said then that he was disgusted by Bulgaria and that he would leave the country. However, he returned very quickly, after the first caretaker government was formed by President Plevneliev. He came back very quickly. A classical staging by the cops during the time of Borissov and Tsvetanov.

DIKOV: *Nothing more than staging?*

VASSILEV: Nothing more, of course. Just have a look at the Afera.bg website and the interview of Pesho “the Sumo Fighter”—a man whom I have never seen and whom I do not know. Then draw your conclusions. I “order” the murder of everybody and they are still alive. Prokopiev is alive, Peevski is alive. I cannot understand...

DIKOV: *Last request—let us see these documents here (points at documents). What are these?*

VASSILEV: For example, this is the protocol of the sole proprietor of the capital of KTS with which he made a decision to sell his shares in Avionam to Hedge. Here is the contract for purchase and sale between KTS as seller and Hedge Investment as buyer.

¹³ Owner of Economedica; publisher of Dnevnik and Capital.

DIKOV: What does this prove?

VASSILEV: This proves that somebody has indeed acquired something against nothing and after that he received some BGN 43 million. Here is the agreement between the former and the present owner. The allonges prove that these shares were actually transferred free-of-charge once, and after that they were transferred back against this price in the contract.

Here is something about Bulgartabac even though they said “there was nothing” there. These are emails sent by Alexander Angelov¹⁴ that show the ownership and the structure. This, for example, is an email by Alexander Angelov in which he explains how the company has been restructured after the Russian Bank VTB exited the company. To prove the fact that Irena Krusteva (*controversial business lady, mother of Delyan Peevski*) was the individual owner of the company, I present a request to open an account for a company that “has nothing to do” with Bulgartabac, a company which, nonetheless, has been set up by the law firm Walch & Schurti¹⁵ which also registered the companies that participated in the acquisition and restructuring of Bulgartabac. My name is also present here (*shows documents on camera*). The names of the two owners of Vinprom Peshtera¹⁶ and of Irena Krusteva are also present here. I repeat, the law firm Walch & Schurti structured the whole transaction. We can dedicate an entire interview just to Bulgartabac. However, the most important to retain is that the same Mr. Schurti appeared as a Director of the Karano Invest company that bought the former Polygraphic Complex¹⁷ in Sofia. Let them say who the owner is and what kind of owner that is. It would be difficult to deny who the owner is.

Here is this email sent by Alexander Angelov. This is even my handwriting (*points to handwritten comments on the printed email*)—instructions for Bisser Lazov. And this is the identity card of Andreas Schurti who is a famous investor in Bulgaria and who buys primarily real estate and assets related to Peevski’s family. There is a recent new development, however. They have done a lot to cover their traces in the past two years. Nevertheless, we have sufficient evidence which was submitted to foreign investigating institutions, which I believe will eventually find the truth about the “sudden” enrichment of Delyan Peevski who until 2013 had submitted only one tax declaration for several thousand leva, but who is now considered the most successful businessman and investor in Bulgaria.

DIKOV: This is a document from the Landesbank of Lichtenstein. What does it show?

VASSILEV: According to this document, the law firm, which registered the foundations holding 80% of Bulgartabac, Livero Establishment, also registered another company which includes almost the same participants as the participants in the ownership of Bulgartabac at the same time. Here, once again you can

¹⁴ Peevski’s lawyer.

¹⁵ A Liechtenstein law firm with controversial reputation in Bulgaria. Investigative journalists have described their participation in corruption at the highest political level in Bulgaria: http://www.miroivanov.com/2015/02/blog-post_16.html.

¹⁶ Vinprom Peshtera is a spirits manufacturing plant; There are rumors that the owners of Vinprom Peshtera are partners with Peevski in his notorious Lafka company.

¹⁷ Former headquarters of the newspapers “Trud” and “24 Hours.”

find the names of the two owners of Vinprom Peshtera and my name. After that, it turned out that I did not come into possession at all, as they have replaced the foundations and Mrs. Irena Krusteva. The very same Mr. Schurti who asked for the account to be opened for a company which did not exist for long...the same Mr. Schurti appeared in the capacity of a manager of Karano Investment that purchased the Polygraphic Complex formerly owned by the newspapers Trud and 24 Chassa. It is difficult to pretend that Mr. Peevski and his mother have nothing to do with Bulgartabac or the Polygraphic Complex. Meanwhile, Peevski—by the way, until 2013 Peevski was a poor Member of Parliament with an officially declared income of BGN 10,000—used this situation. Through fictitious operations of purchase and sale of assets, he transfers his assets to a company registered in Dubai and then “returns” money to Bulgaria, dirty money as income for himself and his family in Bulgaria. A foreign Prosecution Service currently investigates this issue, as the gentlemen in Bulgaria consider Peevski as pure as an angel.

DIKOV: And my final question: when are you going to show publicly the documents you left with notaries?¹⁸

VASSILEV: I will show these documents “when the right time comes,” as a former Bulgarian Prime Minister used to say. We have a long battle in court with these gentlemen, so Bulgarian society will learn a lot about what they have done. Bulgarian society will learn a lot about both clans of Bulgaria’s mafia.

DIKOV: Do you still want to talk before the Prosecution Service?

VASSILEV: I have always expressed such a desire. By the way, I recently asked again to be interrogated through a telebridge. They refused again.

DIKOV: When did this happen?

VASSILEV: Recently. In September.

DIKOV: Quite recently.

VASSILEV: Yes, indeed. Simeonov filed a written request.

DIKOV: Why did they refuse to interrogate you?

VASSILEV: I guess they do not need my testimony. My testimony sheds light on what has happened. As I said, Corpbank was not robbed before June 20, 2014. It was robbed after June 20, 2014. And it was robbed by those who accuse me.

DIKOV: What if they come here to interrogate you?

¹⁸ In prior interviews, Vassilev has told that he left documents evidencing the criminal activity of Bulgarian politicians with foreign notaries.

VASSILEV: I do not know what the mechanism is, whether this is possible or not. If this is possible, I am ready. Anyway, I would say one thing only: their accusations were so absurd that the first-instance court here, which has to decide on extradition on the basis of four formalistic criteria, could not agree on extradition. Of course, in Bulgaria, they speculate about that.

The first-instance court here had to examine four formal principles. For example, that I am not a Serbian citizen, that the crime I am accused for in Bulgaria is also prosecuted in Serbia, that the period of prescription of the crime has not expired, etc. The remaining part of the decision is related to the European Convention on Human Rights: in this case the political motivation of the accusation. The latter here is in the competence of the Serbian minister of justice. In 2015, the gentlemen from the Bulgarian Prosecution Service sent a “pamphlet” to “supplement” the evidence of my crimes. This pamphlet was in the style of *Weekend* (a yellow Bulgarian tabloid owned by Peevski) or in the style of Ivailo Krachunov or Dimiter Zlatkov (journalists writing for Peevski’s yellow press). The Serbian court could not take this pamphlet seriously and refused extradition even on formal principle. Because there is not even an explanation regarding what crime I have committed.

Watch Part II of Tzvetan Vassilev’s ground-breaking interview for “Simply Dikoff” on BIT’s website:

<http://www.bitelevision.com/mafiotski-urotsi-2-tsvetan-vasilev-za-borisovpeevski-tsatsarov-i-razgrabvaneto-na-ktb/>