

KING TAKES OVER BULGARIA

Sofia, July 12, 2001

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His National Movement for Simeon II (NDS) scored a resounding victory in the June 17 general election.

"I accept this offer with huge excitement, taking into consideration my sense of responsibility and the confidence received on June 17," said the ex-king, a political novice at the age of 64 (*pictured above right leaving for exile in 1946*).



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NDS won 120 parliamentary seats in the June 17 election, one short of an outright majority. It is almost certain to include the ethnic Turk Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), with 21 seats, in government.

The EPP associate party, the reformist [Union of Democratic Forces \(SDS\)](#) ousted from power in the elections, has so far refused Simeon's overtures, and is sceptical about his campaign promises of dramatic improvements in everyday life for Bulgarians.

However, talks are taking place between the two parties later day. The new government will formally take over on July 24.

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