**King defied Nazis**

Sir, You report that the play The Brief Life and Mysterious Death of Boris III, King of Bulgaria at the Edinburgh Fringe has been accused of “rewriting history” by falsely claiming that the Bulgarian king saved the lives of 50,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

The play reflects the historical facts correctly. On March 1, 1941, German troops crossed Bulgaria and that same day, Bogdan Filov, the prime minister, signed the accession to the pact. Antisemitic measures were introduced in all countries under the direct or indirect control of the Reich, and regrettably Bulgaria was no exception. However, the Bulgarian law had one significant difference from the Nuremberg legislation — Bulgarian Jews were not denied the protection of their citizenship. Later, parts of Yugoslavia and northern Greece with Bulgarian ethnic and cultural presence were handed to Bulgaria for administration, and without recognition of Bulgarian sovereignty over these territories. The criminal deportation of the Jews who were not Bulgarian citizens from Macedonia and Thrace was solely a German initiative.

The issue of the deportation of Jews from Bulgaria stood differently. Under massive German pressure, the government initially agreed to their deportation. As preparations became known, there were protest and rescue actions throughout the country. On the instructions of King Boris III Peter Gabrovski, the interior minister, cancelled the deportation and 50,000 Bulgarian Jews were saved. The king’s role was decisive, being the person in control of all main centres of power.

I recommend the play to anybody who is impartially interested.  
**Marin Raykov**  
Ambassador of Bulgaria