

PROD 15-3

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BOUNDARY INVENTORY FILE

Bulgaria-Yugoslavia Boundary

There is no dispute between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia over the status of their common boundary. The present frontier was established in 1947 by the Treaty of Paris. It is identical to the one that was demarcated in 1919 by the Treaty of Neuilly and remained valid until 1941 when Yugoslavia was defeated and dismembered by the Axis Powers.

For several years after 1948, when Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform, skirmishes took place between Bulgarian and Yugoslav border troops. Each country protested to the other, and border security measures were strengthened -- particularly on the Bulgarian side. Relations between the countries had improved considerably by 1954, and a mixed commission was formed to restore border signs. In 1955 Bulgaria and Yugoslavia agreed to investigate and solve border incidents. In response to worsening relations with Yugoslavia, Bulgaria strengthened its border defenses several times after the 1955 agreement was signed. By 1959, however, the two states were again on terms friendly enough to permit opening the frontier on special occasions to allow visiting between the inhabitants on both sides of the line.

Bulgarians in Bulgaria claim ethnic kinship to Bulgarians and Macedonians living in Yugoslavia, and at times Bulgaria has loudly complained of alleged Yugoslav mistreatment of these minorities. *It is most unlikely, however, that Bulgaria will claim areas inhabited by these groups.*

estimate

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