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27 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR

FROM : Acting Chief, Publications Staff, ORR

SUBJECT : Release of CIA/BI OM 65-4, National Minorities in
Eastern Europe, July 1965, FOUO, to Foreign Governments

1. It is requested that the attached copies of subject report be forwarded as follows:

#72 - 77
#78, 79
#80 - 87
#88

25X1C

2. All ORR responsibilities as defined in the DDI memorandum of 13 August 1952, "Procedures for Dissemination of Finished Intelligence to Foreign Governments," as applicable to this report, have been fulfilled.

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8 Attachments

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

CIA/BI GM 65-4
July 1965

(CIA/BI GM 66-1)

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF BASIC INTELLIGENCE

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INTRODUCTION

The Soviet hegemony imposed over Eastern Europe after World War II obscures many divergent tendencies that have long existed among the various nationality groups of the region. The gradual weakening of Soviet control over Eastern Europe and the willingness of the Communist regimes to create policies serving national interests rather than those interests have allowed some of these old hatreds and antagonisms differences to come to the surface again, thereby reintroducing divisive elements in both the internal and external affairs of countries in this zone.

Perhaps the most explosive nationality issues in Eastern Europe at present stem from national minorities--distinct ethnic groups living in states that are dominated politically and economically by people of another nationality. In most of the seven countries discussed in this memorandum the size and relative importance of such groups were greatly reduced as a result of territorial changes.¹ Population movements, and loss of life during and immediately after World War II, but many minorities are still large enough and sufficiently concentrated to create problems. The most significant of these minorities are the Hungarians in the Transcarpathian section of Romania and the Albanians in the Kosovo (Kosovo-Metohija) Autonomous Province of Yugoslavia. The historic conflict over Macedonia between Bulgarians, Greeks, and Yugoslavs continues to arise trouble, and other disputes could arise over the large Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia and the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Although not within the scope of this study, the large group of Romanians in the Rumanian region of the USSR further complicates the problem of minorities in Eastern Europe.

Nationality problems of another sort arise within the multinational states of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. A source of internal weakness in these states is the conflict between the dominant nationality and the other smaller and weaker group or groups. In Czechoslovakia this conflict revolves around the traditional rivalry between the dominant Czechs and the smaller and less advanced Slovaks group. In Yugoslavia the strong Serbian group historically has been opposed by the Croats and, to a lesser extent, by other Yugoslav nationalities.

Although much has been written and published on the subject of nationalities in Eastern Europe, it is still virtually impossible to obtain data that are both accurate and comparable for the countries included in this survey. Country censuses are not taken on comparable bases. They vary in date, in completeness, and in the criteria used to identify nationality groups. In addition, census data are sometimes deliberately falsified and distorted. Most countries tend to understate the actual size of their minority populations, and in some instances they ignore completely the existence of a particular nationality or the dispute in size size by revealing its members among several more or less arbitrarily distinct census categories. This makes generalizations and "best guesses" inevitable.

A detailed assessment of the current status of Eastern Europe's national situation, by individual country, is presented in the reverse side of this sheet and in the accompanying statistical tables.

¹ Several of the territorial changes have not been recognized as final by the US Government.

Population of Poland, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Polish	20,000	98.1
Minorities	401	1.9
Ukrainians	180	0.9
Belarusians	100	0.5
Jews	10	0.05
Slovaks	21	0.1
Other minorities	10	0.05
Cypriotes	12	0.06
Latvians	10	0.05
Germans	5	0.02
Yugoslavs	2	0.01
Czechs	1	0.005
Total	20,401	100.0

¹ Based on data from unofficial Polish sources.
² Does not include Austrians, who may number about 1 million.

Population of Czechoslovakia, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Czechs	9,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Hungarians	100	0.7
Germans	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	14,100	100.0

¹ Because of rounding figures do not add to totals.
² Includes an estimated 100 thousand Czechs and 50 thousand Jews not attempted as separate categories in the 1931 census.

Population of Hungary, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Hungarians	9,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Germans	100	0.7
Cypriotes	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	14,100	100.0

¹ Includes Austrians.
² Includes Czechs and Jews.
³ Includes Slovaks.
⁴ Percent of total for Eastern Europe.

Population of Romania, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Romanians	14,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Germans	100	0.7
Cypriotes	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	19,100	100.0

¹ Includes Austrians.
² Includes Czechs and Jews.
³ Includes Slovaks.
⁴ Percent of total for Eastern Europe.

Population of Bulgaria, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Bulgarians	14,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Germans	100	0.7
Cypriotes	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	19,100	100.0

¹ Includes Austrians.
² Includes Czechs and Jews.
³ Includes Slovaks.
⁴ Percent of total for Eastern Europe.

Population of Yugoslavia, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Yugoslavs	14,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Germans	100	0.7
Cypriotes	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	19,100	100.0

¹ Includes Austrians.
² Includes Czechs and Jews.
³ Includes Slovaks.
⁴ Percent of total for Eastern Europe.

Population of Albania, by Nationality

	Percent	Percent of Total
Albanians	14,000	60.0
Minorities	5,000	33.3
Germans	100	0.7
Cypriotes	100	0.7
Other	10	0.07
Total	19,100	100.0

¹ Includes Austrians.
² Includes Czechs and Jews.
³ Includes Slovaks.
⁴ Percent of total for Eastern Europe.

