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REPORT SOVIET TROOP CONCENTRATIONS,
JET AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN BALKANS

SOVIET TROOPS CONCENTRATED ON YUGOSLAV BORDER -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul, 26 Jan 52

Edirne, 25 January (by special correspondent) -- According to information received today from very reliable sources, the Soviets have withdrawn all their troops from Bulgaria, leaving behind only technicians and members of the Politburo. The Soviets, according to these sources, are trying to frighten the Yugoslavs by concentrating the three divisions withdrawn from Bulgaria on the Rumanian-Yugoslav border.

[The following information, while part of the same article, was printed in smaller and lighter type and is apparently not part of the dispatch from Edirne despite the absence of a separate dateline.]

According to reports reaching London, the Soviets are increasingly appreciably the number of jet aircraft fields under construction along the Yugoslav border. These fields reportedly begin near the Turkish-Bulgarian border and extend in a line up to the Yugoslav-Hungarian border. These fields in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary are being built with great speed, and while some of them are still incomplete, Soviet jet aircraft are already stationed at some of these which have been finished. These reports were obtained from 70 refugees who fled to the West from the Iron Curtain countries; they have been confirmed by Yugoslav intelligence agents and by reports of Allied military attaches stationed in Eastern Europe.

One of the largest jet fields being built by the Soviets is reportedly located in the Hungarian city of Karcag; concrete, underground hangars located beneath the 2-mile-long field already house Soviet jet aircraft. Another concentration point for Soviet aircraft is said to be in Csepel, south of Budapest.

The five fields in Rumania are in a line running from the Yugoslav border to the Black Sea. At least two fields have been readied close to Sofia in Bulgaria, and another is said to be at Yambol, only 40 miles from the Turkish frontier.

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SABOTAGE, CLOTHING SHORTAGE REPORTED IN BULGARIA -- Izmir, Anadolu, 21 Jan 52

According to reports reaching Munich, the gasoline dump at the Sofia Arsenal has been blown up by saboteurs. It is not known whether or not anyone was killed by the explosion. Great efforts are reportedly being made to prevent news of the incident from becoming known.

From Vienna come reports that in addition to the food shortage, a shortage of clothing has developed in Bulgaria. All the large Sofia clothing stores, according to these reports, have closed, gone bankrupt, or are about to close. No clothing can be found in the government controlled stores. It is also reported that the available mass-produced shoes are falling apart after but little wear.

Diplomats arriving from Sofia report that the old native markets are the scene of feverish activity, with people visiting them, rather than the stores, in search of wearing apparel. It is no longer possible to find a hat for sale in Sofia, and most people have been reduced to wearing a roughly made beret.

It should be noted, however, that cabinet ministers and Communist Party leaders can still buy anything they wish, although it is not known how or by what means these goods are brought into the country.

SOVIETS SEIZING BULGARIAN FARM PRODUCTS -- Izmir, Anadolu, 17 Jan 52

Despite the good crop this year in Bulgaria, the people are facing a serious food shortage. Although the daily bread ration is officially 600 grams, most people can buy only 300-400 grams. Moreover, under the rationing system, the people have the right to buy monthly 400 grams of olive oil, 820 grams of milk, and 800 grams of cheese.

The tragic situation has been caused by the practice of the Soviet missions of taking Bulgarian farm produce and either sending it to the USSR or to the other Satellite countries in exchange for raw materials.

Failing to obtain the necessary amount of food, Bulgarian workers are not working and are resorting to passive resistance. Once it was possible to buy food on the black market at outrageous prices, but even there it is no longer obtainable.

The Kremlin's policy is to make Bulgaria a "farm," and reports indicate that the Russification program has expanded to other fields. For example, children in the primary and secondary schools are being told that the people of Bulgaria are Russian and that the Bulgarian alphabet was adapted from the Russian alphabet.

REPORT CLASHES ON BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV BORDER -- Istanbul, Yeni Sabah, 28 Jan 52

Vienna, 27 January (Turkish News Agency) -- Reports reaching here reveal that hundreds of Bulgarians are crossing the border into Yugoslavia to seek asylum under the Tito regime. These refugees report that clashes between Bulgarian and Yugoslav border units are occurring almost daily. Bulgarian units sent to the border have isolated a strip along the border from the rest of the country, but, in spite of this, people are continually escaping into Yugoslavia. Sometimes they are even helped by the soldiers.

It is also reported that armed resistance forces known as Gorani (Woodsmen) are continuing their activities in the mountains of Bulgaria.

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MENTAL DISEASES INCREASE IN BULGARIA -- Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 26 Jan 52

Belgrade, 25 January (Turkish News Agency) -- A copy of a report published in Bulgaria, indicates that mental diseases have increased in Bulgaria. According to the report there are now in Bulgaria 872,000 persons afflicted with mental diseases, 45,000 of whom are being treated in Soviet mental institutions.

According to the same report, each year 28 of every 100 people lose their mental balance. To treat so many mental patients, a great number of mental institutions are being built.

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