

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Although the information contained in this report is old, it is being disseminated at this time for whatever current usefulness it may have.

New Construction

1. Topolovgrad did not suffer any damage during World War II. There have been two new construction projects since 1945: one, the Stalin Reading Room, in the center of the city, and the other, the State Hospital which is located in the southwest part of the city. It is only half-finished, with three stories completed.

General Appearance

2. The central part of Topolovgrad is the only part of the town which is planned, the rest of the streets in the town being completely irregular. The streets are electrically illuminated but there are no signs showing the names of the streets. Buildings, which average two stories, are of timber, stone, cement, or brick, with roofs of timber, stone, or cement. Most of the buildings are yellow or white. The outstanding buildings of the city are: the public reading center, the Okoliya Municipal Building, the tobacco depot, and the post office which is under construction.

Population and Religion

3. The population of Topolovgrad probably amounts to about 10,000 or 15,000. The people are generally of Bulgarian origin. There are no large minorities or foreign subjects in the town. Most of the people belong to the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, which has two churches open in the town. The majority of the town's inhabitants are farmers, shepherds, and builders.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Transportation

4. There are no trains connecting Topolovgrad with any other town. The means of local communication are autobuses, horse- and mule-carts, and trucks. The buses are operated by the State and connect with Stara Zagora, Yambol, Elkhovo, and Kharmanli. There are five cars in the town, all of which belong to the Party.

Local Government

5. The Municipal Building is in the exact center of town. The marriage and identity bureau and the military service and mobilization offices are in this building. The rationing office is in the northeast part of the town but near the center of the city, and the income tax and revenue office is in the western part of the town.
6. The Okoliya Militia Headquarters and all other militia departments are located in the governor's building (sic). This building is located south of but near the central part of the town. There is no prison in Topolovgrad. There is a court, which is in the reading center.

The Communist Party

7. Workers are free to look for jobs for themselves if they are Communists. The Communists wear the best of everything. In this way they distinguish themselves from the poor and middle-class people. The Chairman of the Dimitrov Association of the People's Youth in Topolovgrad is Kara Stoyanov. The Secretary is Koychu Kolev. The Communist Club is below the building of the Okoliya Party Committee.

Radio

8. The Stara Zagora radio station is the nearest station to Topolovgrad and offers the best reception for the town. The majority of the people listen to radio broadcasts by means of the speaker systems which have been set up in the streets. A few have their own receivers. The radios of those caught listening to foreign broadcasts are confiscated, and there is even the possibility that such offenders will be deported.

Hotels

9. There is one hotel, the Trakya, in Topolovgrad. It is located near the center of the city and a little to the east. Anyone with identity papers may stay there. The building is three stories high.

Health and Housing

10. There is no housing shortage in Topolovgrad. Most of the houses were built for single families and today are occupied by single families. The houses do not have running water. Water is obtained from street fountains. The houses are lighted by electricity, use wood for fuel, and have painted walls. They are usually very simply furnished. There are very few houses free of bed-bugs, flies, and mice.
11. During 1949 and 1950 there was a tuberculosis epidemic in Topolovgrad. At present there is no hospital but one is under construction. There are two private and one municipal doctors in the town, and it is fairly simple to obtain an appointment with them.
12. The dead are buried in cemeteries in the eastern part of the city.

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Education

13. There are three schools in the town: a primary school, a secondary school, and a lycee, which is co-educational.

Entertainment

14. There is one cinema in the town which shows mostly Soviet films and films of a propaganda nature. The most popular open-air sport in Topolovgrad is football (soccer). The field is located in the southwest part of the city, near the new hospital. The Youth organization has a small chorus and a sports club. These organizations, which are not very active, are under the control of the Party. Anyone is free to become a member (sic).



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