

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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

Construction in Recent Years

- Two important construction projects have been undertaken in Topolovgrad in recent years. One of these is the hospital building west of the town, not yet completed. It will be three stories high and is relatively large for the town. The other is a reading center which has been constructed in the center of town. It has two halls, one which is used as a cinema, and one for reading and lectures.

General Appearance

- Topolovgrad looks like a large village, and is called a town only because it is an Okoliya center. It is generally Eastern in spirit, but the 4-story tobacco warehouse, the 2-story palace of justice, the lycée, and the church give the town a European flavor as these buildings are built in the European style. There is only one avenue in the town. It runs from east to west and cuts the town in half. Along the avenue the dwellings and other buildings adjoin each other; however, all dwellings elsewhere in the town are 1- or 2-story buildings which are set in small gardens. The National Bank, the People's Bank, two hotels, the large homes, and the new stores and cooperatives are located on the main avenue while the government offices and other dwellings are on side streets. Ninety percent of the dwellings are single-family detached houses.
- The city has no important landmarks.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X"; Field Distribution by "Z")

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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Population and Religion

4. The population of Topolovgrad is 10,000. There are no large minorities. About 200 people in the town are Roman Catholics; the remainder are Bulgarian Orthodox. At present 30% of the people go to church, and almost all of these are women.
5. There are two Bulgarian Orthodox Churches in Topolovgrad. The Roman Catholics have a very small and humble place of worship consisting of two small rooms.

Transportation

6. There are no rail connections for Topolovgrad and the town does not have an airport. There are buses, trucks, and horse-carts available for transportation. The 25X1 bus lines, which use old buses imported from Germany and America before World War Two, connect with Elkhovo, Yambol, Stara Zagora, and Kharmanlii.

Town Government

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7. All the offices necessary for the administration of the okoliya exist in the town. The central municipal building, known as the Municipal Office, is in the exact center of town. It has no branches elsewhere in town as all the needs of the town's inhabitants are attended to there. The marriage and identity bureaus and the rationing office are in the municipality building. The finance office is separate.
8. The military service and mobilization offices are in Yambol, preparatory matters being handled in the town. There is no State Hospital but one is under construction at present.
9. The State Security offices are located in the building occupied by the Justice Office.
10. There are no local Militia Headquarters or buildings. There is no prison. The Militia (sic) has a detention building, but more permanent prisoners are sent to Sliven. The town possesses an okoliya court.

The Topolovgrad Communist Party

11. The Topolovgrad Communist Party Headquarters are located in the newly-constructed reading building.

Hotels

12. There are two hotels in Topolovgrad, the Trakya and the Merkez (Central), both on the main thoroughfare. Both have been confiscated by the State from their previous owners and have two stories. The hotels have restaurants on their first floors and rooms on the second. The number of rooms is probably between 10 and 15. The rate for one night is 140 old Leva. Relatively important individuals from the neighboring villages and towns stay at these hotels. The ordinary peasants go to inns where their carts and animals can also be sheltered.

Health

13. There is no hospital in Topolovgrad but one is being built. There is an okoliya doctor. The general health situation is bad, and the reason is the lack of food. In recent years the bread has been of very poor quality, due to the quality of the flour, and as a result, stomach disorders, especially among children, have multiplied. The tuberculosis rate is higher than in years past.
14. The graveyards are outside of the town and to the east.

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