

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1 Polytechnic Institute in Sofia - September 1952

1. The rectorate of the polytechnical institute of the University of Sofia is located on Georgi Chankov Street. The construction engineering faculty is located in the rectorate building, while the mechanical engineering, technological chemistry, geology, and electrical engineering faculties are located in a large building on the cathedral square.
2. Prior to the past academic year, the polytechnic had only construction engineering, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering faculties. Now the mechanical engineering faculty has been divided to create a separate technological chemistry faculty and a geology section has also been created. Since the reorganization, the polytechnical institute has consisted of the following faculties:
  - a. Faculty of construction engineering;
  - b. Faculty of mechanical engineering;
  - c. Faculty of electrical engineering;
  - d. Faculty of technological chemistry; and
  - e. Faculty of geology.
3. The rector of the school is Sazdo Ivanov, professor of physics, who has held this position since 1952. His predecessor was Kurtisnikov (fnu), a professor of construction engineering. Other professors [REDACTED] are as follows:
  - a. Kolarov, inorganic chemistry;
  - b. Azmanov, technology;
  - c. Khristov, physics and chemistry;

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- d. Ivanov, organic chemistry;
- e. Nikolinski, organic technology;
- f. Mutavchiev, about 55 years old, electro-chemistry;
- g. (Engineer) Balasev, construction engineering (architecture);
- h. (Engineer) Popov, construction engineering; and
- i. (Engineer) Petrov, construction engineering.
4. Admission to the school is by examination. Each year 250 candidates are admitted to each of the faculties. Sons of citizens whose property has been confiscated for political or economic reasons are not allowed to take the entrance examinations. During these examinations, the professors are impartial and objective. Regardless of special considerations given by Party organs, there is no favoritism shown toward students either because of family connections or political activities, or if there was partiality shown, [redacted]
5. Approximately 25 percent of the students drop out during their first year of study. Examinations for graduation are held in two sessions. In the 1951-1952 school year, approximately 70 were graduated from the group of 120 students who took the qualifying examinations.
6. For a period of approximately three months during their final year of study, the university students are sent to factories and plants for practical training.
7. The KNIK (Komitet za Nauka, Izkustvo i Kultura; Committee for Science, Art, and Culture) and various factories award scholarships to students. The students who receive grants from factories and plants are required to work at the enterprise for a minimum of five years upon completion of their studies. The grants amount to 320 leva per month. Approximately 50 percent of the students in the technological chemistry faculty received scholarships in the 1951-1952 school year. In order to retain the grants, students must attend all classes at the university, take their examinations on the scheduled dates, and not receive any failures.
8. In addition to the technical studies, a brief program of political culture is required, as follows:
- Historical and dialectical materialism;
  - Political economics;
  - Planned economy; and
  - Constitution and political organs of the Bulgarian People's Republic.
9. The industrialization of Bulgaria permits immediate job placement for all new graduates. The country has a shortage of professional technicians because in the past it had few industrial enterprises and the few it did have were directed by foreign technicians.
10. The university students are organized into the DSNM (Dimitrovski Shuyus na Narodnata Mladesht; Dimitrov Order of the People's Youth). It is not necessary to join the organization to attend the university, but for obvious reasons, the students are all members. The officers are chosen in free elections but always from lists of candidates which have been approved by acclamation. The meetings are not frequent. During the meetings, questions of study and examinations, teaching methods of the professors, and domestic and foreign political subjects are discussed. DSNM members are not in uniform.

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Reaction to Prague and Moscow Trials - January 1953

11. The Bulgarian press greatly emphasized the news of the recent trial in Prague and the arrests of Jewish doctors in Moscow for allegedly causing the death of Soviet high officials. The reports were objective and concise. They were not incriminations of all Jews, but were limited to expressing "indignation" toward only the implicated persons.

Effects of Clandestine Radio Programs - January 1953

12. Broadcasts of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe are heard by many Bulgarians, since there are no specific laws prohibiting the listening. However, the propaganda has little effect for the following reasons:
  - a. It differs completely, or at least partially, from the truth and so loses its intended effect;
  - b. It exaggerates the injustices and limitations of liberty under the present regime; and
  - c. The Bulgarians, especially the young people, have no knowledge of any social system other than the one now in existence in Bulgaria and are not able to realize or believe what is taking place in the Western world.

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