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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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[Redacted]

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[Redacted]	25X1
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Information from the Varna Okrug	DATE DISTR.	24 November 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	5	
DATE OF INFO.	[Redacted]	REQUIREMENT NO.	[Redacted]	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[Redacted]	REFERENCES		
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[Large Redacted Area]

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STATE	X	ARMY	#EV	X	NAVY	#EV	X	AIR	#EV	X	FBI		AEC				
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Mobilization in Varna

1. A mobilization exercise was conducted at Aksakovo (N 43-15, E 27-49), Varna Okoliya, during August 1953. Reservists of several recruit classes received individual summonses in the evening of one day instructing them to appear at the community center the next morning. The reservists were addressed by an officer; and pack animals and wagons were requisitioned. [redacted] similar exercises were held throughout the Varna area and [redacted] the reservists were released the same day.

Conscription

2. At present the 30, 31, and 32 classes are serving in the Bulgarian Army. The 33 recruit class has been called by the Border Guards, and special branches have also been called. Types not known. Servicemen of the 30 recruit class expected to be released in the fall of 1953 when they had finished their third year of service. It was rumored [redacted] that soldiers of the 30 recruit class serving in the Infantry and other branches and having completed three years of service were released during the month of August or the summer of 1953; however, there were others who had finished three years of service who, as of 20 September, had not been released. [redacted] as of August 1953 even those of the 30 recruit class, among the last to be called, had completed three years of service.

3. Men of the 31 recruit class assigned to the Trudovak service entered training on 30 April 1952; men of the 32 recruit class assigned to the Trudovaks began training on 27 February 1953. Men of the same recruit classes assigned to service in regular army were called several months earlier (they would normally enter in the fall). During the summer of 1952 it was rumored in the Army that the service term of 30 months had been extended to 36 months and that the Navy period of service had been extended from 36 to 42 months. Informant has no information concerning the service term in the Air Force or in the specialized branches. It was rumored that an order was expected concerning the release of the 30 recruit class, but [redacted] the order had not arrived.

4. The extension of the service term did not occasion any openly-expressed feelings of indignation or of discontent [redacted]

5. It was rumored that during the summer of 1953 the young men of the 33 and 34 recruit classes would be called for assignment to the regular Army and that during the spring of 1954 the 33 and 34 recruit classes would be called for assignment to the Trudovaks.

Construction of New Air Fields. (Personal Observation and Hearings)

6. During the spring of 1953 Trudovaks began construction on a new airfield just northwest of Senakos Village (N 43-31, E 28-01), Balchik Okoliya. The southern edge of the field is bounded by the Balchik-Debrich Road, and the eastern edge by the town. [redacted]

[redacted] the Trudovaks were not very numerous and [redacted] they were building living quarters first and would construct runways later. It

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25X1 was rumored that this was to be an auxiliary to the Dobrich Airfield so that many planes would be able to take off and land at one and the same place. [redacted] the plans for the airfield had been drawn up a long while ago. No additional information.

25X1 7. [redacted] there were Trudovaks at the Dobrich Airfield, but he did not know how many or what work they did or to what unit they belonged.

25X1 Amnesties

3. [redacted]

25X1 It was rumored that other
25X1 prisoners had also been released, but not those sentenced for political of-
25X1 fenses. 25X1

9. [redacted] displaced families [redacted] in the Balchik area. None of the families from this area has been allowed to return.

10. Early in 1953 the Balchik Militia office called one adult member of each displaced family and told him to write to his relatives who had taken refuge abroad and ask them to return. The Militiamen stated that relatives would be given six months to return and that they would not be prosecuted.

Sabotage in Balchik [redacted]

1. In the spring of 1953, on the outskirts of Balchik just south of the road to Kavarna, the state storehouse for straw was burned. The storehouse contained several very large piles of straw. The straw was kindled from several ends at once, and for this reason, despite the efforts of the Balchik, Dobrich, and Silistra fire departments and despite the intervention of Army and Trudovak units, the straw burned up. It was rumored that the unusually large quantity of straw was for military needs.
2. In February or March 1953 the post and telegraph office in Balchik was burned. It is an old, 1-story structure located in the center of town on the square opposite the municipality. The building did not burn completely because of the timely arrival of the fire department; however, the equipment, documents, and all the inside of the building were severely damaged, and the structure could no longer be used. For this reason the post office was moved to a nearby cooperative store in the same square.

Soda Factory at Reka Devnya [redacted]

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3. In Reka Devnya Village (N 43-13, E 27-37), Varna Okoliya, a large soda factory (Sodov Zavod) is being constructed. The factory is located south of the Devnya River, directly northeast of the village and the railroad line for Kardam (N 43-23, E 26-18), and southwest of the Reka Devnya-Markovo (N 43-13, E 27-39) road.
4. According to hearsay, construction was begun during 1950. As of August 1953, the work was being done by 800-1000 workers hired from a State Construction Enterprise (Stroyobedinenie). At the beginning of August 1953 approximately 200 Trudovaks were transported from another part of the country and quartered in temporary summer camps near the factory. Most of these Trudovaks were from the 30 and 31 recruit classes and were specialists in various types of construction work.

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15. The construction was directed and controlled by a group of Soviet specialists (names not known). It was rumored that the construction was to be completed and the factory put into operation on 1 January 1954.
16. The factory area, approximately 800 x 500 meters, was surrounded by a dense barbed-wire fence approximately two meters high, and was guarded by an unusually strict Militia detachment. A branch of the railroad line runs through the westernmost part of the area, near and parallel to the Devnya River. Along the river, on the eastern side near the rail line, five buildings, approximately 40 x 20 meters, are being constructed. The buildings, which are of reinforced concrete, will probably have three stories. They had not yet been plastered. Before the third story had been completed, machinery from Ruse was installed on the first floor.
17. Between and close to the third and fourth buildings a factory chimney, approximately 90 meters high and very wide, has been constructed by a special work brigade from Sofia.
18. In the center of the factory area, 1-story and 2-story buildings are being built. The buildings are small and will probably serve as warehouses, offices, or living quarters.
19. In the southwesternmost part of the area there are two large holes containing large cisterns/

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20. The Trudovaks were digging ditches or trenches throughout the entire area, and there were large piles of construction material. additional buildings were to be erected.
21. The workers felt that, even though the plant was called a "Soda Factory" (the workers had been told that it would produce soda for bread), it was actually far too large to be used for that purpose.

New Coast Artillery Uniform

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22. In March 1953, in Momchil Village, Balchik Okpiliya men of the Coast Artillery stationed nearby, who formerly had worn regular Army clothes now wore new uniforms.

23. The overcoat is a dark brown (cherno-kafvav) color.

The men wore dark blue trousers which were cut in a regular civilian style. The cloth was of wool and was much smoother than the coarse-wool Army cloth. The pants did not have a colored cord seam (kant). The men wore black, low, civilian-type shoes. Exact style not known.

24.

When the overcoats are unbuttoned flannel undershirts with blue and white horizontal stripes approximately one centimeter wide are visible.

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25. The men wore the regular round sailors cap with the inscription "Chernomorski Flot" (Black Sea Fleet), and dark leather belts, about as wide as those of the Army, fastened in front across the waist with a round yellowish buckle approximately five centimeters in diameter, resembling those of the Navy.

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26. [redacted] Coast Artillerymen with similar uniforms north of Balchik and in Varna. The men wearing these uniforms were known as "Bregovatsi" (Coastmen or Coast Guards).

25X1 [redacted] Comment:

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1. [redacted] the straw piled ~~to~~ ^{are} 100 meters long and 20 meters high.
 2. Probably cuffs, from the French "parement."

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