

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	The Bukovtsi-Mikhaylovgrad Road	DATE DISTR.	14 June 1954	
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1. On the whole this is, by Balkan standards, a very passable road varying in width between five and six meters, including one meter earth shoulders on either side, suitable for all types of traffic. The surface is of the usual earthbound gravel type and, as everywhere else in Bulgaria, reasonably good stretches alternate with stretches that are full of holes necessitating reduction in the speed of private cars to 20 kilometers per hour. It is free from steep climbs and difficult turns. After Glozhene, the 65 kilometer road runs along the western side of the Ogosta River and from it a good view is gained across the country to the east. Low hills rise to the west of the road.

Route: Bukovtsi (N 43-41, E 23-51), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Glozhene (N 43-41, E 23-49), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Butan (N 43-39, E 23-45), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Kriva Bara (N 43-38, E 23-43), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Khayredin (N 43-36, E 23-43), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Vasilovgrad (N 43-35, E 23-37), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Mikhailovo (formerly Dolna Gnoynitsa N 43-34, E 23-36), Oryakhovo Okoliya - Lekhechevo (N 43-32, E 23-32), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - Gromshin (N 43-32, E 23-30), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - Kobilyak (N 43-32, E 23-27), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - Vladimirovo (formerly Lyuta N 43-32, E 23-24), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - Mirchevo (N 43-32, E 23-22), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - Erden (N 43-29, E 23-17), Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya - junction with main road Lom/Mikhaylovgrad - Mikhaylovgrad.

Surface: Except for stretches of between two and three kilometers each in the villages of Butan, Khayredin and Vladimirovo where the road is paved with stone blocks, the surface is, as stated above, made up from gravel and earth. The final two kilometers from the junction with the Lom road into Mikhaylovgrad are also paved with blocks.

Bridges: (a) At Bukovtsi, there is a minor concrete bridge about 30 meters long across the Skit; one masonry pier and masonry abutments; width approximately five meters; height above water level estimated at maximum three meters;

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- (b) A major bridge across the Ogosta to the east of Glozhene; of massive concrete construction (built 1932), it has four concrete arches resting on masonry abutments and three masonry piers; length 100 meters, width four meters, height of deck above water level three meters; at the tops of the arches, there are concrete "roof struts."

Landslides and Subsidences:

- (a) Two kilometers southwest of Vladimirovo where the road runs closely alongside the river, there is a tendency for the road to subside into the river; the western side of the road is flanked by a cliff which is clearly a constant source of trouble through landslides.
- (b) Near Erden, where the Mikhaylovgrad - Vidin railway line crosses the river, there is a stretch of some two hundred meters threatened by landslides from an adjacent cliff; Trudovaks were working on the cliffside in April 1954 with the apparent object of improving conditions.

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