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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Bulgarian-Turkish Property Settlement; Possible Indemnity Payment by Bulgaria to Ethnic-Turk Immigrants for Expropriated Property	DATE DISTR.	16 June 1954
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1. In the course of the nationalization program during late 1947-early 1948, the Bulgarian government nationalized a certain percentage of the property owned by the ethnic Turk minority in Bulgaria. As a result of this nationalization program, ethnic Turks emigrating from Bulgaria to Turkey have been unable to transfer much of their personal property or real estate or to bring much of value out of Bulgaria.
2. This hardship has put the ethnic Turk immigrants in very poor financial straits and placed, to a large degree, the burden of their future welfare and care on the Turkish government. Since that time the Turkish government has been carrying on negotiations with the Bulgarian government in an attempt to obtain indemnity payments for the expropriated property.<sup>1</sup>
3. However, in these negotiations, one of the main points of disagreement between Turkey and Bulgaria has been the evaluation of the expropriated property. The disagreement was to a large degree caused by Turkish government demands that the evaluation be based on some equalization of the expropriated property to current property values in Turkey.
4. The Bulgarian government has recently taken active interest in the settlement of this problem and specifically in relation to the Turkish demands. The Bulgarian government, in an effort to prepare for those negotiations, has asked the Political Section<sup>2</sup> of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to collect and report the following information:
  - a. Statistical: Evaluation in Turkish lira of various Turkish city real-estate (improved) and various Turkish village real-estate (both improved and non-improved). These evaluations are not to be based on property in one area, but are to be made on the basis of property values in five or six administrative regions such as Istanbul, Izmit and Izmir.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

- b. Political: Information regarding the nature and extent of Turkish government retaliation to the expropriation of the ethnic Turk property in Bulgaria such as the restriction of sale, purchase and exchange of property owned by Bulgarian citizens residing in Turkey. Specifically;
  - (1) Are such retaliation measures carried out by law or by governmental administrative orders.<sup>1</sup>
  - (2) Data regarding specific instances, wherein Bulgarian citizens residing in Turkey have been affected by such law or orders.
- c. All information obtained in fulfillment of the above, is to be classified 25X1 secret.

- 1.  Comment: As a result of the Bulgarian expropriation of ethnic Turk property and subsequent Bulgarian failure to agree to some sort of settlement, the Turkish government recently undertook retaliatory measures against Bulgarian citizens residing in Turkey. Although these measures did not include expropriation, the Turkish Land Registration Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by administrative order, has prohibited the sale, purchase or transfer of any property owned by Bulgarian citizens residing in Turkey. This order is still in effect. Although the Bulgarian citizens affected by this order have been greatly upset by these retaliatory measures, they have not has yet attempted to nullify this order through litigation or formal protest.

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