

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Observations on the Political and Economic Situation in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	30 September 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The general economic condition of the people of Bulgaria is poor. Those suffering the most are the peasants who are traditionally conservative. Because of small price cuts, there has been some improvement and certain food items and household articles which were not to be found on the market for a long time have reappeared. 25X1
2. Discontent reigns among peasants who are not members of cooperatives, because of their high taxes and deprivation of their personal liberties, and among workers because of the extremely low wages. Non-skilled workers, who form the majority, receive an average monthly wage of 400-500 leva, from which a considerable amount is withheld, chiefly for the national loan which is launched annually. 25X1
3. On the other hand, youth in general, not having any knowledge as to what a democratic regime can offer, and having grown up in the midst of intensive Communist propaganda, can be considered to be faithful to and practically enthusiastic over the Communist regime. Any attempts toward political education on the part of parents is dangerous for it might bring about their arrest should their children mention this in the political meetings of the young people. 25X1
4. Under the circumstances, all the peasants can do is to complain amongst themselves only with intimate friends. Any public protests would mean dismissal from work, boycotting, and arrest. A high percentage of those who are members of the Communist Party, show their loyalty and enthusiasm for the regime only because of opportunistic reasons, since their membership entitles them to higher posts and their personal gain is greater. A notable percentage of the population mourns the past regimes and hoped that something might bring about a change in the regime in power. Intolerance of the present regime by the majority is chiefly related to the difficult economic conditions.

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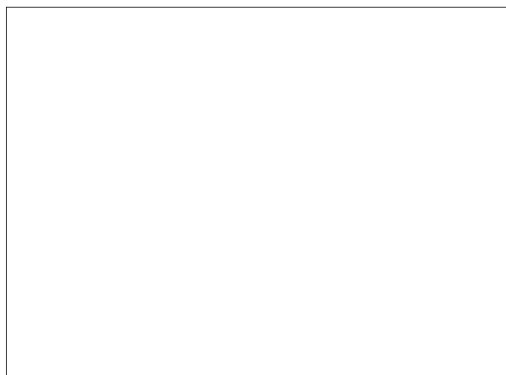
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5. Bulgarian leaders are aware of the discontent existing among the masses, but no measures are taken to improve the general standard of living. On the contrary, the leaders, at all political meetings, continue to threaten to "break the enemies of the people" and state that it is essential that sacrifices be made in order to build up an ideal future society for the generations to come.
6. The majority of the Bulgarian people who, as stated above, have little tolerance for the Communist doctrine, considers Marshal Tito to be a very intelligent leader who knew how to withdraw his country from Soviet influence--an example which they feel the Bulgarian political leaders should have followed. The Bulgarians are convinced that Tito has no secret agreement with the USSR against the West. According to the Bulgarians, the military alliance with Greece and Turkey has considerably strengthened the position of Yugoslavia and they feel that without that pact the bordering satellite nations could have one day succeeded in carrying out an armed attack against Yugoslavia. In fact, the Bulgarians, having abandoned the hope of an immediate solution to their problems by an intervention of the United States, feel that the future liberators of Bulgaria will be the Yugoslavs.
7. The orthodox religion in Bulgaria is practiced freely and is respected, but is watched by the government to see that it always maintains a role outside of politics. The "popes" have become easily acclimatized to the new regime, and adhere for the most part willy nilly to the national orthodox church which is subordinate to the head of the Russian orthodox church, Patriarch Aleksei.



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