

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Union of Soviet Citizens and the Soviet Citizens Club, which has approximately 5,000 members, are located at 11 Klement Gottwald Street in Sofia. Construction of a large building, at an estimated cost of 17 to 18 million leva, for the Union offices and the club is now in progress opposite the present offices.
2. The activities of the Union and the maintenance of the club are financed by a number of Union-owned enterprises which enjoyed a special status in the local economy. Up to 1954 they operated independently of the ministry which controlled their branch of industry, the only control on the part of the Bulgarian authorities being that of the National Planning Office. The enterprises are supplied with raw materials through the economic department of the Union, fix their own prices (which are submitted for formal approval to the appropriate Bulgarian body), and sold their products mostly to the joint Soviet-Bulgarian national enterprises. The new course in the Soviet policy towards the satellites in granting greater autonomy and withdrawing from the joint Soviet-Satellite national enterprises has been felt in the Russian emigrant colony in Bulgaria in general and the Union-owned enterprises in particular. Without actually having renounced the right to control these enterprises, the Union has allowed the Bulgarian authorities to extend their authority and tighten supervision, which was practically nonexistent until 1954. The enterprises are being subjected step by step to the same regulations and restrictions applying to Bulgarian enterprises.
3. The largest Union-owned enterprise is the Marshal Tolbukhin woodwork factory, employing approximately 600 workers, located near the Iskŭr railroad station in Sofia. The factory operates a branch in Rudozem, in the mining district near the Turkish border, which supplies the Gorubso joint Soviet-Bulgarian mining enterprise. Other Union-owned enterprises include the Dobrudzha restaurant on Dobrudzha Street in Sofia, frequented mostly by foreign diplomats; the Altay Cafe on Ruski Boulevard in Sofia; Petex, a factory in Sofia for women's fine ready-made dresses; a large leather goods factory called Yales; a medical instruments factory near Aleksandŭr Stamboliyski Street in Sofia; and some metal workshops of small artisans in Stalin (formerly Varna), Plovdiv, and other towns. The Union has established a fine recreation home, located in a 2-story building at Pancharevo near Sofia, which serves only Soviet citizens.

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