

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Organization

1. The Bulgarian land reform bill (Trudova Pozemlena Sobstvenost) of 1946 specified three types of agriculture for the future:
 - a. Private agriculture, comprising private owners cultivating their own small plots of land;
 - b. Cooperative agriculture, comprising cooperative farms (TKZS - Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo); and
 - c. State agriculture, comprising state farms (DZS - Dürzhavno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo).

The agricultural machine stations (MTS - Mashino Traktorni Stantsii) were set up at the same time to provide mechanized help for the state, cooperative, and private farms. The controlling authority for agriculture is the Ministry of Agriculture, or its Department for Land Administration and Crop Rotation (Otdel Za Zemeustroystvo i Seitbooboroti).

State Farms

2. State farms are made up of land which had either been state-owned before World War II, confiscated from owners of large estates, or the land of peasants who owned more land than permitted by the land reform bill. The farms are state property and the managers and workers have the same status as those of other state-owned enterprises. In exceptional cases a state farm is authorized to buy up some privately owned land in order to enlarge a certain branch of production of special importance, but such cases are infrequent. The declared aim of these farms is to provide necessary quantities of foodstuffs without the government being dependent on cooperative and private farming.

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3. Workers on state farms are organized in brigades, each brigade being engaged in specialized work. The workers live either in the farm area or its vicinity. In exceptional cases, they are granted loans or allocations of building materials to build their own houses. Their financial status is identical with that of cooperative farm members since they also receive their wages according to the crops. Agricultural experts of the Ministry of Agriculture carry out their experiments on state farms. Individual farmers have remarked that "there are more investigators and judges on state farms than laborers", which indicates the chaotic state of affairs which exists.
4. In July 1954 the number of state farms in Bulgaria was 180. A minimum of three kilograms of wool from every sheep and 65 liters of milk per year are among the official quotas of deliveries from a state farm. The majority of the agricultural experts and workers being sent to the USSR for further training and specialization are state farm employees.

Cooperative Farms

5. The cooperative farms (TKZS), established after the implementation of the land reform, are technically independent. In order to impress upon the peasants that the TKZS was autonomous, the Party Central Committee decided in 1951 to detach the TKZS Directorate (Direktsia Na TKZS) from the Ministry of Agriculture and to set up an independent agency to control the cooperative farms. While the Organizational and Cooperative Administration (Organizatsionno Kooperativno Upravlenie) is the present governing body for the TKZS, the Ministry of Agriculture remains the ultimate authority in important matters connected with general policy. The TKZS are also dependent on the machine stations, which are controlled by the government.
6. TKZS members are required to turn over their property (land, machines, livestock) to the cooperative. Each member is allotted from two to five decarees of land for his own private use, a cow or two goats, one or two pigs, three to five lambs, a donkey, up to 10 beehives, and an unlimited quantity of poultry. Landless peasants who have entered a cooperative pay a monthly rent on the land allotted to them.
7. Upon joining a TKZS, a peasant is required to pay an entrance fee of 80 to 200 leva on every decare of land which he formerly owned. The value of his property is assessed, and his account is credited accordingly. If the value exceeds the amount of his entrance fee, the cooperative refunds the difference in a period of from five to eight years. Landless peasants whose other property does not cover the entrance fee must pay the balance, over a period of years, either in cash or agricultural produce. On leaving the cooperative farm, the peasant is entitled to receive the same number of decarees which he turned over to the TKZS (though not the same plot), his livestock, and his agricultural tools. His property is to be returned by the cooperative within three years from the date of leaving.
8. Among the most important privileges accorded by the government to the cooperative farms are the following:
 - a. Exemption from certain taxes for a period of three years;
 - b. Financial aid for various development works;
 - c. Grant of land from the government's "land reserve fund"; and
 - d. Exchange of the cooperatives' plots for better land owned by private peasants.

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9. The crops and other produce of cooperative farms are divided as follows:

- a. Delivery quota to the government, repayment of the seeds received on loan from the government at the beginning of the season, and payments owed to the machine station;
- b. Enlargement of the cooperative's livestock;
- c. Allotments to emergency funds (drought or accidents);
- d. Payment of wages earned by exceeding the norms; and
- e. Sales on the free market to acquire cash for the smooth management of the cooperative.

The remainder of the produce (the cash derived from its sale on the free market) is divided as follows:

- a. 90 percent for the members' wages (of which 20-30 percent is paid for the land handed over by the members when joining the TKZS);
- b. 7.3 percent for the drought fund (in addition to the emergency fund described above);
- c. 1.5 percent for the aid fund for invalids and the aged; and
- d. 1.2 percent for social institutions.

Members who handed in orchards or vineyards to the cooperatives, receive 30 percent of the annual net profits derived from their land.

10. Labor on cooperative farms is provided by the members, except for physicians, technicians, agronomists, and other experts who are on loan from the government. In emergency cases the TKZS is allowed to engage outside laborers to ensure completion of urgent work and delivery of the prescribed quotas. Advances are paid to the cooperative members during the course of the year and accounts are settled yearly in January. The advances must not exceed 60 percent of the estimated quantity of crops due the individual, based on the farm's production plan, and 50 percent of the cash. The final accounts are reckoned in such a way that the average daily earnings of a TKZS member amount to four to six leva in cash and 24-26 leva in kind.

11. The following official figures reflect the growth of the cooperative farms in Bulgaria from 1945 to 1954:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of TKZS</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Land</u>
1945	110	7938	0.55 percent
1946	382	34362	3.0 percent
1947	480	41027	3.6 percent
1948	549	73934	6.1 percent
1949	1100	156542	11.5 percent
1950	1608	589201	47.6 percent
1951	2739	- -	- - - - -
1953	2747	- -	- - - - -
1954	3500	700000	60.0 percent

(Approximate figure)

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Machine and Tractor Stations

12. A department of the Ministry of Agriculture controls the machine and tractor stations (MTS), which provide state farms, cooperative farms, and private peasants with necessary tools against payment and are therefore self-supporting.
13. The administration of a MTS is as follows:
 - a. A manager appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture;
 - b. An assistant manager who is the political officer of the station;
 - c. A technical manager;
 - d. A chief accountant; and
 - e. An agronomist.

Employees of the station are divided among the following departments:

 - a. Stores;
 - b. Fuel;
 - c. Machine shops;
 - d. Tractor brigades; and
 - e. Agronomists and technicians attached to the brigades.
14. There were 1,100 tractor brigades in Bulgaria in July 1954. A 60-man brigade is detailed to carry out the work at three or four cooperative farms. The normal working day of a brigade is 12 hours, but in the rush season members must work 24 hours. All brigade members must take a course with five lectures per month.
15. In July 1954 the number of machine and tractor stations was 240, with an average of 75 employees in each station. The total number of tractors was 10,300 of which 500 were acquired in 1954. At the same time there was a total of 1594 combines (200 of them were of local manufacture) of which 234 were acquired in 1954. In 1954 the number of special field stations for the MTS stations was 35. Each station has 60 fuel tanks of three to five-ton capacity and three or four tankers.
16. In addition to the machine shops in the stations, the government maintains special workshops for servicing of the MTS. These shops are as follows:
 - a. Large shops for major repairs on 50-60 tractors and 50-60 other machines per year;
 - b. Smaller shops for repair of 25-30 tractors and an equal number of other machines per year;
 - c. 35 mobile workshops mounted on ZIS-105 trucks to make on-the-spot repairs; and
 - d. Four major shops for general overhaul of tractors and other machines.

Seventeen more workshops are to be set up by 1957.
17. Tractors in Bulgaria are classified into eight types according to horsepower and make. A driver's wages vary according to the tractor on which he works and the norm he has fulfilled. An experienced driver who has fulfilled his norm earns 28-38.40 leva in cash and 7.1 to 9.6 kg. of wheat for a day's work. An assistant driver draws 10 percent less, while the head of the tractor brigade draws 25 percent more than an experienced driver.

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18. The work norm of a tractor-driven combine is 80 decare per shift. The combine worker who fulfills his norm receives 0.4 leva per decare. For over-fulfillment of the norm from 80 to 160 decares, the pay is 0.56 leva per decare, and 0.72 leva per decare from 160 decares up.

Peasant's Morale and Attitude

19. Despite the many improvements, such as electricity, clinics, and libraries, the Bulgarian peasant who is basically suspicious, finds his standard of living even lower than before 1944. The prices paid by the state for the delivered quotas are very low, and the peasant is forced to buy the same products at double or triple the price which he received for them from the state; while he receives 0.45 leva per kilogram of grain from the state, he must buy it for himself at 3.5 leva.
20. The poor condition of the peasant and his attitude toward the cultural activities organized by the authorities in the village is illustrated by the Bulgarian maxim, in current use by the peasants: "A hungry bear doesn't dance". The general attitude of the peasant toward the regime is one of distrust and overt hostility; however, he expresses his discontent only in the family circle or to close friends. There is also bitter resentment against the leaders who left the villages to become loyal Communists. The voice of Bulgarian leaders who live abroad does not reach the peasant.
21. The attitude of the peasant varies with the district in which he resides. The influence of the Communist Party is relatively small in the areas of Khaskovo, Smolyan, Devin, Blagoevgrad, the Dobrudzha, Vratsa, Kyustendil, and Samokov.
22. Aside from the discrimination of the authorities against the private landowner whose delivery quotas are much higher than those of the cooperatives, extensive propaganda campaigns to induce him to join cooperative farms are conducted. Huge posters and thousands of leaflets, emphasizing the advantages of cooperative members, are distributed among the peasants. An important factor in the discrimination against the private peasant and his exploitation by the state is the system of taking fertile soil from the peasant under various pretexts and giving him poorer land to farm. Sometimes shortly after such an "exchange" and before the peasant has hardly had enough time to adjust himself to the new conditions, a new cooperative is formed, and the peasant's land is again exchanged for a still poorer area. The constant pressures on the private farmer have been effective to a certain extent; many have concluded that joining a cooperative will make their lives quieter and easier.
23. The management of a cooperative farm is handled by the chairman, the chief accountant, and a few other leading members who have dictatorial powers. Favoritism and corruption are rampant in almost all the TKZS. Stealing is considered acceptable by the members, who have decided that they "must take quickly before the chairman takes it". A trial against the TKZS chairman in Tsomakovtsi village disclosed that the chairman, the accountant, and another leading member had managed to store away a ton of wheat to sell on the free market, the money to be divided among them. An additional 37 tons of wheat were missing from the stores. Some members who had first complained to the authorities about the irregularities in the TKZS were expelled, and one of them was even imprisoned as an "enemy of the people". The police did not intervene until after more cases of theft had been reported. In order to alleviate the chronic difficulties of management, the authorities have set up schools for selected cooperative members in all districts. Graduates are sent back to the TKZS and "elected" as chairmen.

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24. The following is a breakdown into Regional Categories for Grain, Beans, and Peas:
- Category 1: Balchik, Burgas (city), Byala-Slatina, Vidin (city and Okoliya), General Toshevo, Isperikh, Polyanovgrad, Lom Kubrat, Nova Zagora, Oryakhovo, Pavlikeni, Pleven (city and Okoliya), Tutrakan, Dulovo, Plovdiv (city), Ruse (city), Svishtov, Stara Zagora (city), Tolbukhin (Okoliya), Yambol (city and Okoliya), Pazardzhik;
 - Category 2: Burgas (Okoliya), Vratsa (Okoliya), Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Nikopol, Kolarovgrad (city and Okoliya), Ruse (Okoliya), Lovech, Sofia (city), Kula, Lukovit, Mihaylovgrad, Novi Pazar, Popovo, Pazardzhik (Okoliya), Plovdiv (Okoliya), Provadiya, Pürvomay, Razgrad, Silistra, Tervel, Türgovishte, Tŭrnovo (Okoliya), Chirpan;
 - Category 3: Aytos, Asenovgrad (city and Okoliya), Byala, Vratsa (city), Elkhovo, Kazanlık (city), Pomorie, Preslav, Sevlievo, Sliven (Okoliya), Sofia (Okoliya), Stalin (Okoliya), Tŭrnovo (city), Khaskovo (city and Okoliya);
 - Category 4: Belogradchik, Breznik, Grudovo, Elena, Kazanlık (Okoliya), Kyustendil (city), Levskigrad, Omortag, Radomir, Svilengrad, Sliven (city), Stalin (city), Kharmanli;
 - Category 5: Botevgrad, Gabrovo (city and Okoliya), Dimitrovo (city and Okoliya), Dryanovo, Ivaylovgrad, Ikhtiman, Kyustendil (Okoliya), Michurin, Panagyurishte, Pirdop, Stanke Dimitrov (Okoliya), Topolovgrad, Troyan, Stanke Dimitrov (city); and
 - Category 6: Ardino, Berkovitsa, Blagoevgrad (city and Okoliya), Godech, Gotse Delchev, Devin, Kotel, Krumovgrad, Kŭrdzhali (city and Okoliya), Malko Tŭrnovo, Madan, Momchilgrad, Petrich, Peshtera, Tazlig (sic.), Trŭn, Samokov, Sandanski, Smolyan.
25. The following are delivery quotas of grain (in kilograms per decare) for 1954:

Private Farmers	Regional Category					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Land in decares						
Up to 5 decares	12	10	8	6	4	2
5 - 10	15	13	10	7	5	3
10 - 15	18	15	12	8	6	4
15 - 20	23	19	16	10	7	5
20 - 25	30	25	20	12	8	6
25 - 30	37	29	22	15	9	7
30 - 35	40	32	24	17	10	8
35 - 40	45	37	29	19	12	9
40 - 45	49	41	32	23	14	10
45 - 50	53	45	35	26	17	11
50 - 60	58	49	39	30	21	12
60 - 70	62	53	42	33	24	15
70 - 80	65	56	45	36	27	18
80 - 90	68	59	48	39	30	20
90 - 100	71	62	51	42	32	22
100 - 125	75	65	54	45	34	25
125 - 150	79	69	57	48	37	27
150 - 175	82	72	60	51	40	29
175 - 200	85	75	62	53	42	31
Above 200	87	77	64	55	44	33
TKZS members (private plots)	12	10	8	6	4	2
Government land	34	28	21	15	10	6
TKZS land	34	28	21	15	10	6

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26. The following are delivery quotas of potatoes (in kilograms per decare) for 1954:

<u>Private Farmers</u>	<u>District Category</u>			
<u>Land in decares</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Up to 2 decares	200	180	165	150
2 - 5	210	190	175	160
5 - 10	220	200	185	170
10 - 15	230	210	195	180
15 - 20	240	220	205	190
Above 20	250	230	215	200
TKZS and Government farms	220	200	185	175

Bulgaria has been divided into four districts for assigning delivery quotas.
A TKZS member is exempted from delivering potatoes produced on his private plots.

27. The following is a breakdown into Regional Categories for Hay:

- a. Category 1: Balchik, Burgas, Byala-Slatina, Byala, Vidin, Vratsa, General Toshevo, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Dulovo, Elkhovo, Isperrikh, Uka, Polyanovgrad, Kubrat, Kazanluk, Kolarovgrad, Lom, Lukovit, Mihaylovgrad, Nikopol, Novi Pazar, Nova Zagora, Oryakhovo, Pavlikeni, Pleven, Plovdiv, Provadiya, Popovo, Puvromay, Razgrad, Ruse, Svishtov, Silistra, Sofia, Sliven, Stalin, Stara Zagora, Tervel, Tolbukhin, Turnovo, Turgovishte, Tutrakan, Khaskovo, Yambol, Chirpan, Dimitrovgrad;
- b. Category 2: Aytos, Berkovitsa, Asenovgrad, Belogradchik, Botevgrad, Blagoevgrad, Breznik, Gabrovo, Godech, Grudovo, Dryanovo, Dimitrovo, Elena, Kotel, Elin Pelin, Ivaylovgrad, Ikhtiman, Kyustendil, Levskigrad, Lovech, Omortag, Pirdop, Preslav, Panagyurishte, Pazardzhik, Pomorie, Radomir, Slivengrad, Sevlievo, Samokov, Stanke Dimitrov, Topolevgrad, Teteven, Troyan, Kharmanli;
- c. Category 3: Ardino, Gotse Delchev, Devin, Krumovgrad, Kurdzhali, Madan, Malko Turnovo, Momchilgrad, Michurin, Petrich, Peshtera, Razlog, Smolyan, Sandanski, Trun.

28. The following are delivery quotas of Hay (in kilograms per decare) for 1954:

<u>Private Farmers</u>	<u>District Category</u>		
<u>Land in decares</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Up to 3 decares	10	7	5
3 - 4	15	10	8
4 - 5	20	15	10
5 - 6	25	18	12
6 - 7	27	21	14
7 - 8	30	24	16
8 - 9	35	27	18
9 - 10	40	30	20
10 - 15	50	35	25
15 - 20	60	45	30
20 - 25	70	55	40
Above 25	75	60	45
TKZS and State Farms	20	15	10

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29. The following is a list of prices for agricultural produce for 1954:

<u>Produce</u>	<u>Government price for delivered quotas</u>	<u>Price in retail stores</u>	<u>Price of flour in retail stores</u>
Wheat	0.45 leva (In northern Bulgaria and Dobrudzha)	3.50 leva	5.00 leva
	0.40 leva (In southern Bulgaria)	3.50 leva	4.50 leva
Rye	0.40 leva (In northern Bulgaria and Dobrudzha)	3.00 leva	4.00 leva
	0.35 leva (In southern Bulgaria)	2.50 leva	3.40 leva
Barley	0.35 leva (In northern Bulgaria and Dobrudzha)	3.00 leva	4.00 leva
	0.30 leva (In southern Bulgaria)	2.50 leva	3.40 leva
Oats	0.40 leva	2.50-3.00 leva	3.50 leva
Millet	0.45 leva	2.00-3.00 leva	
Corn	0.28-0.35 leva	2.50 leva	
White beans	0.45-0.60 leva	4.90 leva	
Hay	0.10 leva	1.00 leva	

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