

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| COUNTRY | Bulgaria | REPORT | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> | 25X1 |
| SUBJECT | Miscellaneous Economic, Political and Sociological Information | DATE DISTR. | 15 April 1955 | |
| | | NO. OF PAGES | 5 | |
| DATE OF INFO. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD | 25X1 |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | | REFERENCES | | |
| DATE ACQUIRED | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> | This is UNEVALUATED Information | | |

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

25X1

Pay of Workers

1. Workers are paid as follows:
 - a. Unskilled worker, or clerk - 600 leva a month;
 - b. Skilled worker or clerk - 700 leva a month;
 - c. Physicians - 600 leva per month; physicians may practice after working hours served in government employ;
 - d. Factory managers - 800 to 1000 leva a month; and
 - e. University and technical schools - 1000 leva a month.

Holidays and Special Bonuses

2. Every worker is entitled to two weeks off with pay every year. They may take their vacation at a resort or rest home by paying a fixed sum of 80 leva.

Political Situation

3. Persons disappear from time to time, and not even their next of kin know what has happened to them. Each 10 families has a group chief who is a trustee of the police. This family group chief passes on ordinary and special messages to the families, and in turn he must be informed by them of what is going on in the family circle, such as illness, departures, arrivals, and stay of relatives and friends, requests and signs of anything regarding one's family or other families in the building. This system is foolproof because nothing escapes the attention of the police.
4. Strict censorship probably hides the commission of acts of sabotage, which have been reported several times. Of course, they are sporadic and isolated, so that they cannot be said to weaken the regime.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|----------|---|
| STATE | X | ARMY | X | NAVY | X | AIR | X | FBI | | AEC | | USIA/IRI | X |
|-------|---|------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|----------|---|

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

5. The government feels so strong that lately it is relaxing its guard a bit, in the matter of police measures. Among these relaxed measures are the abolishment of police exile for many civilians who were moved from the cities immediately after World War II. They have been allowed to return to their homes. However, they cannot repossess their property, nor is their citizenship automatically restored.
6. Many of these police exiles have preferred to stay in their new homes, where they have made a new life, rather than go back to live in poverty where they once were lords.
7. Another relaxation is in the granting of passports to Western countries. During the past few months, women of Western nationalities married to Bulgarians have been allowed to visit their relatives in the West for short periods of time.
8. The issuance of passports to Bulgarian citizens of advanced age who wish to expatriate from the Orbit has been streamlined and shortened in time. This is also true for aged Jews who wish to expatriate. A certain reluctance to give permission to young Jews, however, is still evident. Many persons wish to leave Bulgaria, but not everyone is in a position to do so. There have been cases of Bulgarian women who married Jews in the hope of leaving the country, and found that the authorities refused their requests to expatriate.
9. According to Bulgarian law, a Bulgarian woman who marries a foreigner does not assume the nationality of her husband; on the contrary, women of other nationalities who marry Bulgarians do become citizens of the country. there are no official measures discriminating against the Jews or other minorities in Bulgaria. Officially they have the same rights and duties as other citizens.
10. There is reportedly no present anti-Semitism among the Bulgarian people. Official and people's demonstrations against Jews have not occurred during the past year or longer.

25X1

Propaganda

11. Propaganda is intense, continuous and oppressive. It is carried on by every conceivable means: press, radio, motion pictures, lectures. Every Saturday afternoon a political lecture is held in all factories. Attendance is compulsory, and the meeting lasts for two or even three hours. At the end of the talk, the audience is invited to participate in a question and answer period, and to express its opinion.
12. Even residential buildings have their periodic lectures and political meetings for all residents. Absence from them is a cause of suspicion. Radio broadcasts constantly preach the line, interspersed with short musical programs which offer a prevalence of Russian compositions; old Italian songs are often transmitted, as they are favored by the listening public. Railroad cars are equipped with radio loudspeakers which barrage the captive audience with Soviet propaganda.
13. Bulgaria has only the following radio transmitting stations: Sofia 1 and 2, and Stalin.
14. The motion picture theaters show propaganda films of Soviet, Czechoslovakian, and Hungarian production. Except for Soviet films, all have Bulgarian sub-titles. From time to time, Italian musical and sentimental pictures are shown; at such time, attendance rises sharply. People stand in line for hours to buy tickets, and often the house is sold out before all have bought their tickets.
15. In spite of the political events of the past 10 years, the Bulgarian people still keep their sympathy for Italy, as it was before the last conflict. In 1954, Bulgaria began its own motion picture production.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-3-

Western Radio Listening

16. Western radio broadcasts beamed to Bulgaria are heard by a large part of the people in spite of warning and threats by the police. These broadcasts suffer from interference by local stations which have the sole purpose of jamming.

17.

25X1

18.

19. Western radio broadcasts are heard in Bulgaria with fair audibility, at the following hours: Radio London 8:30 p.m., Voice of America 9 p.m., and Radio Free Europe 9:30 p.m.

Press

20. Up to the middle of 1954, Communist newspapers from the Western countries, especially L'Humanite and L'Unita were permitted to enter the country. They are no longer sold because they revealed a much higher standard of living in the West.
21. Once in a while, a bold humorist will slap the government. Some time ago there was a cartoon in Sofia, showing a cow with its front quarters in Bulgaria and its hind quarters in the USSR. The cow was being fed in Bulgaria and milked in the Soviet Union. The people are aware of how the USSR exploits their resources.

Schools and Universities

22. There are no restrictions placed on the number of students up to the higher secondary level. Enrollment of university students is subject to the approval of government agencies. The number of vacancies is undetermined and unpublicized for the various schools, and there is no competitive examination for entrance.
23. Graduates of pre-university schools must apply for admission by executing a detailed personal history statement. The government then accepts or rejects the application, the latter without stated reason. A rejected request may be refiled on the following year. Requests from working class backgrounds or children of political personalities are favored.

Political and Special Subjects Taught

24. The Russian language is a compulsory subject in all schools. The majority of the Russian language teachers are Bulgarians, supplemented by a few Russians. Instructors or professors of other nationalities are not permitted to teach in Bulgarian schools.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

25X1

-4-

25. Secondary schools and universities teach compulsory military theory, and university students are examined in this subject. The following subjects are also compulsory and considered important on the university level: Marxism, Leninism, and Marxist dialectic. Examinations in these subjects are severe and are a decisive factor in the individual's continuation of studies. [Redacted] classic and humanistic courses are almost non-existent in Bulgarian universities.

25X1

Agricultural Crisis

26. Farm work is no longer loved, and the peasant no longer feels the call of the soil, which is not his property. Remuneration is poor; less than that for industrial labor to which many of the country folk have drifted, with the initial encouragement of the government.

27. The peasant has acquired the feeling that a greater effort on his part on the farm will not bring any immediate visible benefit to him or to the community. Greater production only means greater exports to the USSR, leaving the Bulgarian people in a chronic state of need. In 1954, the farm crop was abundant, but the Bulgarian people were not fed any better than in less-yielding years.

28. There has been no real improvement in farm techniques: machines are only limitedly employed, and chemical fertilizers are scarce. The government is attempting to salvage the situation by restoring part of the land to its former owners for private tilling. However, this step should go hand in hand with a substantial reduction in the quota of produce payable to the government, because many of those who repossessed their land have already given it back to the government for this very reason.

29. [Redacted] prices of the following products:

25X1

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Flour | 4 leva a kg |
| White bread | 5 " " |
| Black " | 2 " " |
| Egg macaroni | 10 " " |
| Macaroni (no eggs) | 7 " " |
| Rice | 20 " " |
| Butter | 25 " " |
| Steer meat | 12 " " |
| Veal | 16 " " |
| Sugar | 20 " " |
| Sunflower seed oil or pumpkin seed oil | 12 leva a liter |
| Milk | 3.5 " " |
| Wine | 7-10 " " |

30. There is a shortage of coffee, tea, spices, etc., which cost about 200 leva a kilogram. Restaurants sell a la carte only; there are no set prices for an entire meal, and prices are quite high. During the past year, many pastry shops have reopened.

Clothing

31. Clothing is in short supply, of poor quality and high-priced. [Redacted] prices of the following:

25X1

25X1

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Shoes | 200-250 leva a pair |
| Cloth for men's suits | 240 " a meter |
| Ordinary shirts | 70 to 80 leva each |
| Nylon hose for women | 80 to 100 leva a pair |
| Artificial silk hose | 25 " " |
| Common men's socks | 16 " " |

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

25X1

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

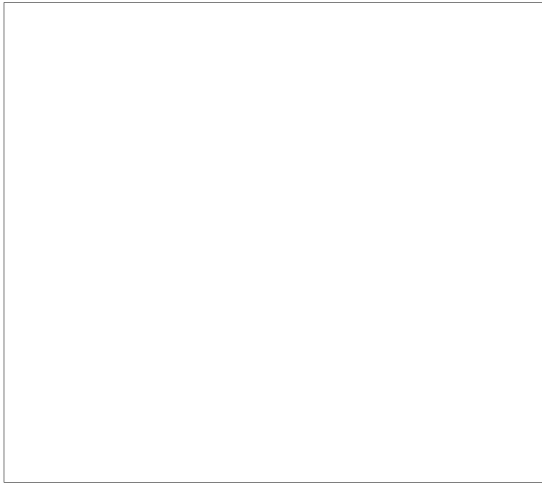
25X1

-5-

Electric Power Supply in Sofia

32. The supply of electric power for civilian use is subject to certain restrictions. Residential buildings are limited in their use of electricity and are actually without it for several hours every evening, taking turns or shifts based on odd or even house numbers.
33. Electrically operated house appliances may be used only from 1-4 p.m. Power is fed to the capital at 150 volts; 220 volts in the suburbs and elsewhere in Bulgaria. Normal electric bills are 50 leva a month.

25X1



~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1