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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Rumania**

DATE DISTR. **28** Aug 51

SUBJECT **Recurring Sabotage in Valea Buzaului Oilfields**

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[Redacted area]

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2. "The center of the oil production in the Valea Buzaului was shifted lately to the region of Bercu. With the objective to locate further petroleum deposits, a large number of engineers, technicians, as well as Soviet supervisors were concentrated in that area. Out of the total 106 old oil wells, which formerly belonged to the 'Astra Romana' company, 40 are at present in operation. The daily production amounts to about 30 wagons. A total of 1,500 workers are employed in this area and work under the strict control and supervision of the Secret Police (Securitatea). The workers are organized in groups of 10, each of which is controlled by one armed Security Policeman. These intensified security measures are hoped to put an end to the series of mysterious accidents, mishaps and incidents which are attributed by the authorities to sabotage acts of class enemies.

3. "Last year a fire destroyed the local offices of the 'Sovrompetrol. During the winter months of 1950 production had to be stopped frequently because, as investigations have revealed, the machines were improperly maintained, not adequately protected against cold. They broke down in sub-zero temperatures. Last November the workers of the oilfields went on strike and caused the production to stop when they protested against the bad and insufficient food they received at the canteens. Five 'reactionary' instigators of the strike were arrested by the local commander of the Securitatea, Capt [fnu] Negoita. In March 1951, a drilling machine of American make, which had been in operation between the localities Beciu and Bechani, broke down and nobody could repair it. Two months later a German technician succeeded in locating the cause of defect: some essential part had been removed from the drilling machine by unknown saboteurs. After each of these incidents, many workers were dismissed, upon orders of the Soviet management, in an attempt to safeguard the security of the oilfields. The strict supervision of workers' groups by Securitatea guards was finally introduced.

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4. "The petroleum obtained in the Vales Buzului is being led through a pipeline, running through Buzau, to the main pipeline leading to Ploestieni, a Soviet port in Bessarabia. The large reservoirs located between Berch and Sarata are linked with this pipeline system by a secondary tube."

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