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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Bad Morale in Military Units

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1. Various informants have in recent weeks supplied some with mutually confirmatory reports stating that signs of discontent can now be observed both in the Bulgarian regular (career) army and among troops doing their tour of military duty. Discontent among the troops seems to be widespread. An undetermined number [Source can give no specific information as to numbers but can say only many] of soldiers have followed the old Bulgarian custom of taking to the mountains. They do this, however, only if there is no chance of getting across the strictly guarded frontier. Soldiers serving in frontier garrisons, however, appear terrorized, as a result of "instructions" (presumably threats) given them.
2. Some soldiers are reported to have been shot, when they were detected trying to get away, with full equipment, on their return from maneuvers.
3. This situation apparently explains why it has been thought necessary to send 200 Bulgarian officers, just back from politico-military training in the USSR and from service with the Soviet Army, to Bulgarian units. All these men seem to be serving as political commissars.
4. These new commissars have received powers more extended than in the past. They have power to punish soldiers severely for offenses against the regime. They also have the right to assemble a local court-martial of a new sort, to try soldiers caught trying to cross the frontiers, without the Bulgarian Army's usual court-martial procedure, and without reference to the Bulgarian equivalent of the JAG. These extraordinary courts-martial, summoned only by the political commissar, have the right to pass the death sentence by shooting in cases where Bulgarian soldiers have tried to pass the frontier. Some soldiers are reported to be joining resistance groups in the mountains.

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