

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY **SECRET**
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT The Bulgarian Textile Industry
50X1

DATE DISTR. 9 MAR 52
50X1

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]
DATE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted] 50X1

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1. The production of textiles is the most important industry in Bulgaria. The industry is concentrated in the following cities, listed in the order of their importance: Gabrovo, Sofia, Sliven, Plovdiv, and Stalin (formerly Varna.)

Raw Materials

50X1 2. Bulgaria's present production of cotton is the same as it was before the war, about three to four million kilograms per year. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] this is to be increased to about six or seven million kilos, but [redacted]
50X1 do not know the date when this target is to be reached. 50X1

50X1 3. Before the war 50% of Bulgaria's cotton imports came from India, the remainder from Egypt, South America, and the US. Today, Bulgaria imports only Soviet and Egyptian cotton; 18 million kilos annually of the former and about three to five million kilos of the latter. [redacted]
[redacted] The Egyptian cotton comprises only very fine grades, while the Soviet cotton consists of much coarser grades.

50X1 4. Bulgaria buys almost none of its Egyptian cotton directly from Egypt. Instead, the USSR purchases it from Egypt and then sells it to Bulgaria. [redacted] the reason for this procedure is that the USSR lacks sufficient spinning capacity and therefore purchases cotton for processing in the satellite countries, afterward buying the finished textiles from the satellites.

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50X1 5. Most of the hemp required by Bulgaria is grown domestically. Most of the
50X1 country's flax requirements must be imported. Prior to the war, Bulgaria
imported flax from Italy and the Baltic States.

50X1 6. Wool produced in Bulgaria is coarse. Before the war, Bulgaria imported
50X1 Australian wool from England and wool thread from Germany.

Spinning and Weaving Capacity

- 50X1 7. In 1939 the inventory of cotton spinning machinery in Bulgaria totalled
50X1 240,000 spinning spindles. [redacted] no spinning machines have
been imported since that time except for a 60,000 spindle mill purchased
from East Germany in 1950-51. It is planned to increase this capacity
through the importation of an additional 60,000 spindles of spinning
50X1 machinery by 1953. In Bulgaria [redacted] the average life span for
spinning machines is thirty years.
8. In 1939 Bulgarian spinning mills, working two eight-hour shifts per day,
produced about 20 million kilograms of cotton thread ranging from #8 to
#36, with #16 being the average. (These figures refer to the British
system of designating cotton thread.) Approximately 50 to 60% of the
thread produced was #16, the remainder being divided among numbers 8, 12,
24, and 36. After the war the trend was toward the production of coarser
threads, so that now approximately 50 to 60% of cotton thread output is
#14.
- 50X1 9. In 1939 the inventory of wool spinning machines ranged from two to three
thousand spinning spindles for wool (Streichgarn) and about 1500 for
worsted (Kammgarn). No additional machinery has been imported since World War
II, and [redacted] none is scheduled to be imported.
Wool spinning capacity is insufficient to keep the looms fully occupied;
hence 50% of Bulgarian requirements for cloth and thread have to be
imported.
- 50X1 10. In 1939 there were approximately three to four thousand spindles for
spinning hemp and flax in Bulgaria. There have been no imports since that
time, and, [redacted] none are planned. Most of the
machines are 50 to 60 years old.
11. In 1939 there were approximately seven thousand looms in Bulgaria for
weaving cotton and silk and approximately 2,500 heavy looms for wool
cloth. There were another thousand looms for the weaving of hemp and flax.
No new machines have been imported since that time, nor are any such imports
scheduled at the present time.
12. One of the bottlenecks in the Bulgarian textile industry today is machinery
for processing cloth into finished textile products, i.e., dyeing, merceriz-
ing, laundering, pressing, and buttonholing machines.

Textile Plants

13. The two largest prewar cotton spinning mills in Bulgaria were "Bulgaria"
in Gorna Banya near Sofia and "Tsar Boris" in Varna. Each contained
about 25,000 spindles.
- 50X1 14. Today the largest spinning factory would be the 60,000 spinning spindle
installation purchased from East Germany. It is called "Textilna Vlakna"
and is located, [redacted] in Nadezhda, a village near Sofia.

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15. The largest cotton weaving factory before the war was "Fortuna" in Nadezhda, which contained about 700 looms.
16. Since the nationalization of industry in Bulgaria, the textile industry has been "rationalized", that is, many small factories have been combined into larger ones. The Government believed that great increases in capacity could be achieved by this method, but from my experience in the textile industry, "rationalization" could result in no more than a 10% increase in capacity.

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Imports of Textile Machinery

17. Bulgaria's prewar inventory of textile machinery came from a number of different foreign manufacturers. However, most of the machinery installed during the immediate prewar years was of German manufacture. Since the end of World War II, Bulgaria has not imported any textile machinery except for accessories and spare parts and a spinning mill purchased during 1950 from Eastern Germany. This was a complete mill which included all preparatory equipment, 60,000 spinning spindles, and 20,000 twisting spindles. The textile machinery manufacturing firm of Truetaschler and Gay in Grimnitzschau, Saxony, furnished the preparatory machinery; the firm Harmann in Chemnitz supplied the spinning frames, while the twisting frames were procured from the Hannel firm in Chemnitz. These are the prewar names of those firms; they have since been integrated into VVB Textima.
18. Bulgaria imports spindles for replacement in existing spinning machinery from the firm Goller in Chemnitz. The anti-friction bearings in the Goller spindles are imported by that firm from Western Germany.
19. Knitting needles and other types of textile needles have always been a bottleneck in the Bulgarian textile industry. Bulgaria has been buying as many needles from Germany as it could. Until 1949, the firms Naddfabrik, Chemnitz (former name: Hase) and Naddfabrik, Hohenstein in Saxony, both part of VVB Textima, supplied 80% of Bulgaria's requirements, but in the last two years this percentage has decreased considerably. Bulgaria has also been purchasing knitting and sewing needles from the West German firm, Gratz & Beckert in Ebingen, Baden. Spare parts for sewing machines is another item which was in constant demand and, like needles, has been included in every trade agreement concluded between Eastern Germany and Bulgaria.
20. Card clothing is purchased from Eastern Germany and the USSR. The VVB Textima Plant (the former Seckmann firm) in Neustadt near Orla is the East German supplier. Before World War II, the card clothing for cotton cards manufactured by this firm was made of cotton; since World War II it has been made of cellulose fiber and to a lesser degree of cotton. Card clothing made from cellulose fiber lasts two to three years; that made from cotton, three to five years. The Neustadt plant also furnishes Bulgaria with card clothing for wool cards, which is more difficult to manufacture than clothing for cotton cards. It consists of seven layers of cotton interspersed with rubber, while clothing for cotton cards consists of five layers of cotton with no rubber in between.

Bulgarian Production of Textile Machinery

21. Spare parts for old machinery in textile plants are usually made to order in Bulgarian machine shops. Shuttlas are produced domestically of beechwood which is not very satisfactory because it has a tendency to splinter and has a short life expectancy.

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22. The only complete textile machines manufactured in Bulgaria are some small looms and auxiliary textile machines of various kinds produced in small machine shops. The Bulgarian Government plans to produce more and more of its own textile machinery requirements. As a beginning, they are now trying to start production of spare parts which, over a period of years, will probably advance to the stage where complete machines of simple designs will be produced.

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