

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**



COUNTRY Rumania  
SUBJECT Praid - Town Description

DATE DISTR. 26 Dec 1952

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS. 1  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

PLACE ACQUIRED  
DATE ACQUIRED  
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SOURCE



1. Praid (46°33'N, 25°08'E) is a centuries-old town dating back to the period of the Roman Empire. It is located in a valley on the Tarnava-Mica (now) river. The Hungarian name for this river is Kis-Kukullo. The river is very small, about six meters wide, and it is very rapid. The Tarnava-Mica flows from the northeast to the southwest. It is not suited for commercial fishing, but sportsmen occasionally catch a few mountain trout in it. Banks of the river are flush with the ground. Although the river normally floods after a big rain, such floods do not damage the town's buildings.
2. The streets are paved with small crushed rock. Maintenance is very poor. Although there are no sewers, the streets drain well. Numbering system for buildings is very irregular. Streets are lighted well with electric lights every night. The lights are on wooden poles about four meters from the ground.
3. Most residences are of log pole construction, one floor and are painted light blue or white. Houses are erected flush with streets with no sidewalks intervening. Houses are heated with small wood-burning stoves. A large and adequate firewood supply is readily available from forest surrounding Praid. Almost all residences are equipped with electricity but few have telephones. Most persons own their own homes and do not rent them. Climate does little damage to buildings. Hip roofs covered with wood shingles are the prevailing type. Garbage is placed on manure piles and later used as fertilizer.
4. There are no military camps in or around Praid. The town's population is 99% Hungarian and townsmen dislike the Rumanian government.
5. About eight kilometers east of Praid there is a mine which produces aragonite. I have no details about this mine.
6. I have prepared a free hand sketch of Praid (Enclosure A7) not drawn to scale, showing the location of the principal buildings. Numbers on the sketch are identified by the corresponding numbers listed below:

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1. City hall. This is known as the "new" city hall. One floor -- brick construction.
2. Elementary school. One floor, frame construction.
3. Rumanian Orthodox Church. Brick construction. No one uses it because anything with a Rumanian label is disliked by townsmen.
4. Catholic Church.
5. Priest's residence.
6. Presbyterian Church. Brick construction.
7. Hungarian constabulary office. I understand this building was used by Hungarians during their occupation of the town in World War II.
8. County office building.
9. Old city hall.
10. Pharmacy -- this is the only pharmacy in Praid county.
11. Doctor's residence.
12. Bus station. There are two main routes from Praid. One goes to Odorhei (46°27'N, 25°14'E) and the other to Targu-Mures (46°33'N, 24°33'E).
13. Lumber mill.
14. Lumber mill.
15. Flour mill.
16. Flour mill. This one makes an extra-fine type of flour.
17. Flour mill.
18. Concrete dam erected in 1927 or 1928.
19. Lumber mill.
20. Hydroelectric power plant erected in 1926 or 1927. It provides power only for the town of Praid. It produces 22 volts on an alternating current. It is privately owned by a German family named Furst. It is also equipped to generate electric power from steam during the winter months when the Tarnava-Mica freezes. The power supply is not very dependable. Power failures are frequent. I do not know what causes them.
21. Mill. Produces crushed rocks for roads. A small narrow gauge railroad station is located about three hundred meters southwest of this mill.
22. Lumber mill.
23. Salt mine.
24. Administration office of salt mine.
25. Old Roman salt mine, still produces salt.
26. Swimming pool.
27. Salt hill.
28. Cattle market.
29. Presbyterian cemetery. Nearby is the only place I know of in or near the town that could be used for an airstrip. Adjoining this cemetery is a flat

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stretch of land about one and one-half kilometers long and two hundred meters wide. It is not used as an airstrip now. It is covered with a thick growth of pasture grass and is used by farmers as pasture.

- 30. Catholic cemetery.
- 31. Post office, telephone and telegraph offices are located here.
- 32. Pottery factory -- very small.
- 33. Public market -- Thursday is market day.
- 34. Rumanian constabulary office.

- end -

ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of Praid, Rumania, not drawn to scale, showing location of principal buildings.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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13 SKETCH OF PRAID, RUMANIA, NOT DRAWN TO SCALE, SHOWING LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

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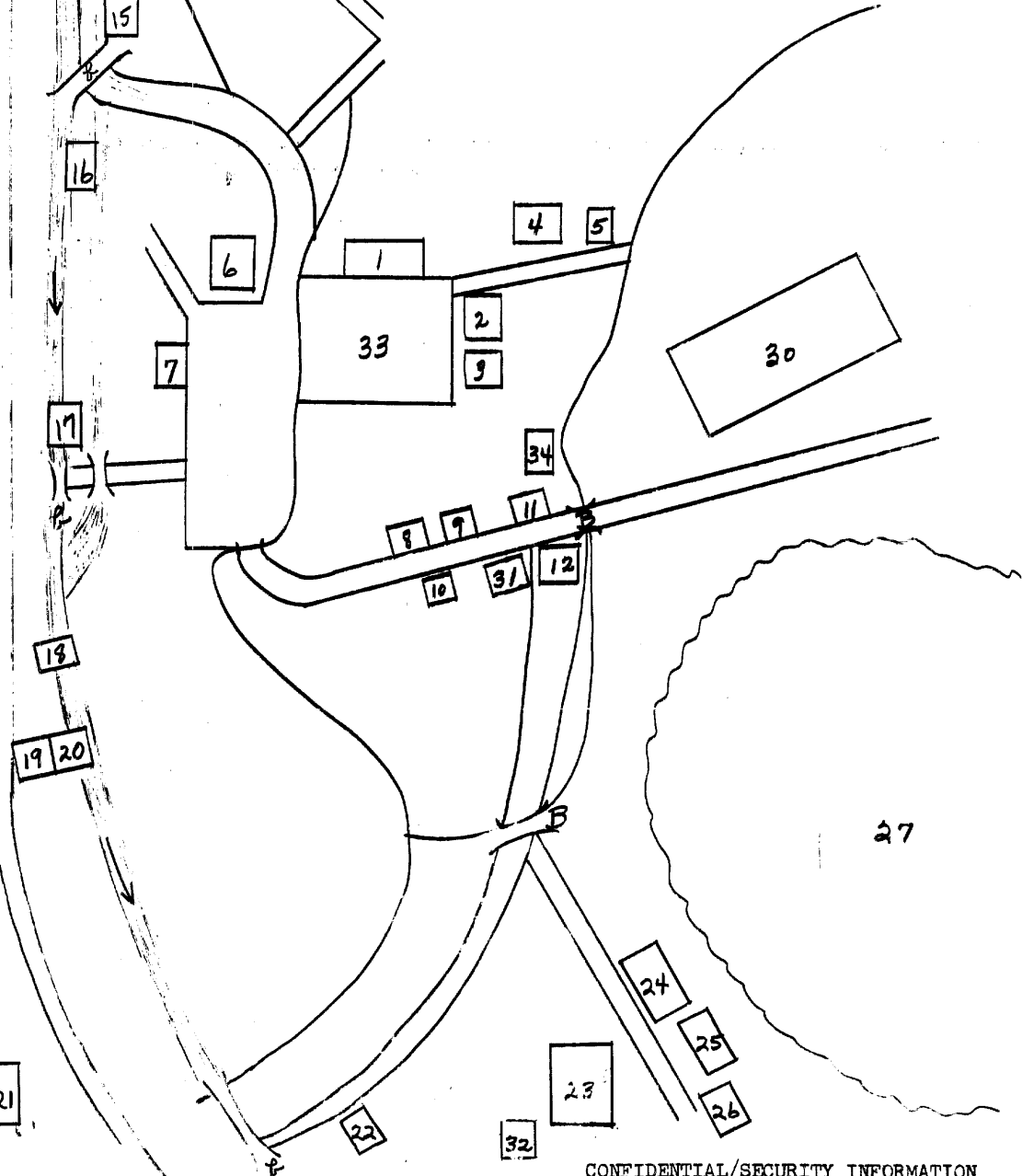


B - Steel bridges

b - Wooden bridges

Road

21 28



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