

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL** [Redacted Box]

COUNTRY Bulgaria REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Uranium Mining in Bulgaria
25X1X 25X1C

EVALUATION [Redacted Box] PLACE OBTAINED [Redacted Box]

DATE OF CONTENT January 1949

DATE OBTAINED [Redacted Box] DATE PREPARED 26 September 1949

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____
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1. Uranium Mine Near the Village of STRELZA (B 2/A 14), about 8 miles East of PANAGYURISHTA (B 2/A 04).

- a. Location: 3 miles northwest of STRELZA
- b. Uranium Occurances: Mining operations started in 1943. Uranocirite (barium uranyl phosphate) was found in the first vein, which vein was soon exhausted. "Otunit" (calcium uranyl phosphate) was discovered in another vein shortly afterwards. This mine, therefore, had no barium, sulphur and thorium. Although ore occurrences of this vein allegedly were originally insignificant, preparations for large-scale mining were made. Cantonment buildings and markings were observed.
- c. Uranium Content: Ore lumps with a uranium element of 46.5 percent and 10.9 percent (as U₃O₈) were found.

2. Uranium Mine near BUHOVO (B 1/L 56)

The uranium ore analysis of this mine indicated the occurrence of "tobernit" (copper uranyl phosphate). Specimens were found to contain a uranium element of 6.67 percent to 28.2 percent.

3. Uranium Ore Dump

- a. A large dump is located between the fish market and the state shipyard in the harbor of VARNA.
- b. The uranium ore is shipped by rail from the BUHOVO mines to the dump.
- c. The uranium ore is stored in piled-up sacks.

4. Outgoing Shipments

- a. Shipments leave only on Soviet ships bound for ODESSA. Loading was done by Soviet ship crews.
- b. Ten fully-loaded ships, with 8,000 to 10,000 tons each, left VARNA in 1948.

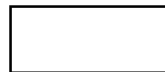
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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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DEN INFO: 4
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5. Note by an expert who took no part in these tests:

Uranium occurrences have long been known to exist in Bulgaria. At the southern border of the Strana Gora (about 40 miles east of Sofia), as well as near STRALZA, uranium ore is found in the granite as barium uranium ore. The geological structure of Bulgaria undoubtedly indicates very frequent uranium occurrences.

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