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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

[redacted]

FW 709

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 18 AUG 50

SUBJECT Strike of Dock Workers in Constanta

NO. OF PAGES 1

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. During the week of 2 April 1950, an unorganized strike took place among the dock workers of Constanta in which all members of the dock workers' organization, including the Communists, participated. Reportedly, this strike resulted from the workers' dissatisfaction with low wages, inadequate food supplies, and high food costs, aggravated by their having seen goods smuggled into the country by foreign sailors and sold at prices much lower than those now prevalent in Rumania. The strikers did not formulate any demands.

2. When the strike broke out the municipal authorities called out the organized Communist portion of the population of Constanta, chiefly intellectuals who were to work without pay. These people, being unaccustomed to work of this nature, were of little practical use in loading and unloading ships. Finally, the Government called upon the peasantry of the surrounding countryside, offering them good wages and telling them that they would be engaged in unloading ships which were bringing food into the country. When the peasants discovered that, contrary to what they had been told, two ships were being loaded for the Soviet Union and only one ship unloaded, one-half of them quit and the other half worked so poorly that they accomplished very little. As a result, the Government was forced to deal with the strikers who, after being assured of higher wages, returned to their work.

3. There were no reports of this strike in the Rumanian press.

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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