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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 7 SEP 50

SUBJECT Anti-Turkish Propaganda in Bulgaria

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[redacted]

1. In Bulgaria, especially in the districts where the Turks are numerous, a systematic propaganda campaign against Turkey is being waged. The theme of the propaganda is that there are no homes or food in Turkey. The Turks are said to be dying of hunger and to be eating grass and straw. Those people who want to leave Bulgaria for Turkey are told that they will not be accepted unless their relatives in Turkey will guarantee to support them for three years. Therefore, according to the Bulgarian propaganda, the best place to live is Bulgaria.

2. A few Turks who were selected by the Communist Party are travelling from village to village and are repeating the stories about Turkey. In the district of Momchilgrad, Nuri Turgut, Hasan Nalbant, Ahmet Karakedi (aka Ahmet Onder), Halil Ahmet, a cook named Mehmet Huseyin, a barber Ahmet Halil and the chief assistant of the municipality Zeki Kamil are being used by the Bulgarian Communists in this way.

3. The Bulgarian Government encourages wealthy Turks who are in commerce to emigrate to Turkey, but it prevents groups from leaving. Prior to the time that three Communist Turkish newspapermen arrived in Bulgaria from Turkey, people of the districts of Momchilgrad and Cumayibala (sic) decided to emigrate to Turkey in a group. They applied to the Turkish Consulate in Plovdiv for visas. After returning to their villages, those who had applied were exiled. After this incident, the Bulgarian propaganda campaign against Turkey began.

4. Communism has not been accepted by the Turks of Bulgaria. Among the Bulgarians also, the real Communists are very few in number. The people are frightened by the power of the Militia and the members of the Communist Party. The Government wishes to establish Kolkhozes but there is little sympathy for this project. The Communist Party distrusts the peasants and at harvest time members of the Militia are present to prevent sabotage to the crops.

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