

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT City of Varna

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1. The seaport city of Varna has a population of approximately 80,000. In 1921, after a land survey, many old buildings were torn down and new buildings, apartments, and villas were constructed. Since 1945, construction activities have consisted mainly of the building of a technical school and a trade school. Lack of materials has prevented any large construction projects, such as proposed apartment houses.
2. The principal streets are: Slivnitsa; 9 Septemvri (the former Tsar Boris); 6 Septemvri; Mariya Luiza (which has been renamed); Voynishka; Nishka; Yanko Sakizov (formerly Siborna); Rakovski; Miladinovi; Makedoniya; Buluvar Tsar Osvoboditel; Aleksandar Stamboliski (formerly Vladislav). The Slivnitsa road is lined with lime trees, and is the widest street of the city. It begins at the sea and continues north as far as the Girls' School. At this point Nishka Street begins which extends to the city limits. These two boulevards are the east-west dividing line of the city. The 9 Septemvri Street begins at the People's Theater and extends to the sea. Maria Luiza Street begins at the Military Station at the end of Slivnitsa Boulevard. The Voynishka road leads to Balchik and Tsarevo. The Slivnitsa and the 9 Septemvri and 6 Septemvri are the main business boulevards.
3. Among the outstanding landmarks of the city are the beach, the city park, the Girls's School, Sveta Bogoroditsa Cathedral, the University, the technical school (still under construction), the Naval War College, the theater, the aquarium, the Bulgarita Hotel, the electric power plant and factories. A large monument dedicated to the dead of World War I stands opposite the Military Post. Other statues are those of Stefan Karaca, Stalin, Vasil Levski, Hristo Botev and Luben Karavelov. Some of the Orthodox churches are the Sveta Bogoroditsa, Sveti Petka, Sveti Arkhangel Mihail, Sveta Marina. There also exist an Armenian church, a Roman Catholic church, an Evangelist church, and a mosque.
4. The Varna railroad station lies in the southwest part of the city. The freight station is a separate building just west of the station. The passenger station has three stories, topped by a clock tower. The station has been constructed for military use so that it can handle 16 incoming and 16 outgoing trains in a 24-hour period. A passenger train and an express train go to Sofia daily. One passenger train and a combination passenger-freight train leave for Dobrich daily.

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5. The harbor lies south of the city and is separated from it by a wall and iron fence. All entrances to the port are under the strict control of the Militia. The following goods are received at the port: chemical fertilizer, paper, iron, rubber, tractors, trucks, and copper sulphate (for vineyards). Military equipment is brought in during the night and unloaded by soldiers. Among the goods exported here are: wine, tobacco, vegetable and fruit preserves, cloth material, rice, wheat, white cheese and kosher cheese, and sand containing uranium.
6. The airfield lies between the Varna-Aksovo highway (approximately eight kilometers northwest of Varna) and the Varna-Kevnyat highway (approximately 30 kilometers west of Varna). The field covers a surface of 4,000 decares and was officially opened in May 1948. A single YU-52 (sic) airplane flies from Varna to Gornya Oryahovitsa and then to Sofia for three consecutive days and then begins flights on the Varna-Burgas-Sofia route for three consecutive days. The Varna radio station is just south of the field, and from five to eight kilometers west of the city.
7. Bus lines throughout the city were operating until the spring of 1948 at which time the lack of gasoline and spare parts forced a decrease in service. At the present time, the only lines in operation are those starting from the Hotel Bulgaria. The State Line Service Association has three or four large buses that operate to points outside of the city, from Varna via Balchik to Kavarna, and between Varna and Dobrich. Most of the buses are of German origin, but new coaches come from the Skoda works. The city still has a few taxis, but they are decreasing in number because the old ones are not being replaced. Horse-drawn phaetons communicate between the railroad station and the center of town.
8. Important officials of the city are:
 - a. Petar Bombor - Chairman of the District Committee.
 - b. Captain Halachev - Naval Forces Commander and Garrison commander.
 - c. Geno Gutev - Chairman of the City Committee (chief of the city).
 - d. Argirov - Secretary of the Oblast Fatherland Front Committee.
 - e. Stefan Preslavski - National Security district chief.
 - f. Major Pandov - Commander of the city Militia.
 - g. Ivan Karageorgiev - An official of the State Control Commission.

Most of the government offices are located in the Alliance Francaise building which formerly was the French consulate.
9. There are three kinds of Militia police patrols; foot, mounted, and motorized troops. Of the foot Militia, some remain at stationary posts, others are assigned to night patrols. The mounted patrols usually are on duty on Sundays and holidays. The motorized Militia are sent to danger points in order to break up rebellions and resistance movements. Militia sentries have been posted at the entrances and exits of the city to control transportation activities and travelers. There is no longer a curfew in the city.
10. The following factories are located in Varna:
 - a. 1 May Textile Factory. The number of workers is estimated at 2,000. It is surrounded by a wall and hidden from view by poplar trees.
 - b. State Ship Workshop with an estimated 1,500 workers.
 - c. Korolovag Workshops for railroad cars, employing approximately 1,000 workers. Only repair work is done here. The Germans had started to construct three reinforced-concrete tanks for gas and petroleum of which the Soviets dismantled one. It is reported that they will also take the others when they are completed.

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- d. The Hristo Botev Textile Factory, employing approximately 700 people.
- e. The Black Sea Machine Factory, which repairs various machinery. It employs about 170 workers.
- f. The Partam Factory - Besides manufacturing stoves, this factory makes lathes, planes, carpenter tools and machine parts. It employs between 200 and 250 workers.
- g. The Ustrem Textile Factory, which produces silk fabrics, employs 120 workers.
- h. The Engibarov Factory manufactures stoves. There are 150 workers employed there.
- i. The Railroad Repair Shop. The building also houses locomotives not in use. It employs approximately 120 men.

The textile factories generally employ more women than men.

11. A plate of food with meat costs 250 leva. The daily wage of an ordinary worker is from 180 to 250 leva. The Government has established small restaurants in the factories where the workers, many of whom are Communists, are able to purchase a small plate of food with meat once a week at the price of 25 leva.
12. The local Communist organizations are located in the red three-story Alliance Francaise building opposite Ploshchod Nezavisimos (Independence Square). Besides the main club of the Communist Labor Party, there are five or six Communist district clubs and two Communist libraries in Varna. The various sport clubs are under the direction of the Physical Culture Association which trains students in many war-like exercises including shooting and parachuting. The aim of the Physical Culture Association is to inculcate the youth with Communist propaganda and to prepare young men for military activities. The duties of the other organizations consist of spreading the principles of Communism.
13. The only newspaper in Varna is the Narodno Delo (People's Affairs) which is published by the Fatherland Front.
14. The District Committees control the rent of the real estate nationalized by the Government and are in fact owners of such property in the name of the Government. The names of these Committees in Varna are: Avram Gachev, Aleksandar Stamboliski, Strashimirov, Pyasitsite, Popov, Yanko Kostov. It is forbidden to settle in Varna, but the Party finds living quarters for officials who come to the city. The Government forbids anybody to stay permanently in a hotel.
15. The Hotel Bulgaria, located on Pred Oaribusna Spirka, is a four-story building with some 50 rooms. Its rates of 350 leva make it the most expensive hotel in town. On the same street is located the Hotel Musala, a three-story edifice. The former Hotel Berlin has been renamed Hotel Rodina and lies on Srestu Carat. Other hotels are the Ostrov, the Preslav, and the Commercial. There is a women's boarding house at the 1 Maj factory. Each room has a kitchen and is occupied by four persons, none of whom is associated with the Communist Party. Members of the Party live in modern apartment houses and Party officials are even given summer resort villas.

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16. The University of Varna now has only two faculties, the Technical and the Economic Faculties. The period of study at the Technical Faculty is four years and leads to specialization in architecture, electricity, mechanics and chemistry. The period of study in the Economic Department is three years. This Department has three sections: State Economics, Special Economics, and Trade. The number of students who may study State Economics is determined by the Government and therefore very limited. The graduates of the State Economics courses become State officials. The university has an enrollment of between 7,000 and 8,000 students of whom approximately 5,000 to 6,000 are in the Economics Department.
17. The Naval War School in Varna admits only those students who have completed the first two years in the lyceum with high grades. These students are required to pass a physical examination and then competitive examinations. Of some 500 applicants each year one hundred students are chosen. The period of study lasts six years. Only those who pass the first three years are allowed to continue into the second three-year period. These students receive free instruction and are credited with the completion of their military training. This is one reason for the great number of applicants. The graduates are appointed officers and are immediately assigned to units. Presentation of a Party certificate is necessary for registration in the University and Naval War College.
18. The theater is called Narodn Teatr Varna (Varna People's Theater). Four cinemas are open throughout the year and two more play during the summer season. Soviet films are shown for the most part and occasionally a French or Italian film, but American films have been banned since 1947.

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