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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 6 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Military Recruitment Program in Bulgaria

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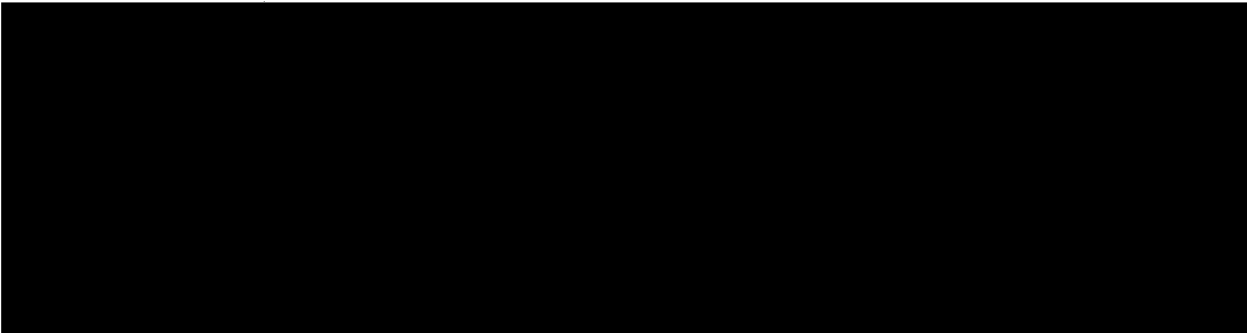
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. From all indications, Bulgaria has begun to intensify its military recruitment program. In mid-March 1951, members of the 1931 age group were required to report to the military commission in their areas for registration and physical examination preparatory to military service. In addition, the 1932 age group is being partially called for registration and examination. The 1931 age group and a portion of the 1932 age group were to be inducted into the military service during May and June 1951.
2. Men of the 1930 age group were registered and examined by a military commission in the spring of 1950. An unknown percentage of those men were assigned to military units, while the remainder were assigned to the Trudovak labor battalions and sent to their home areas for training. Those in the latter category were to appear again before military commission boards in March 1951 for physical examinations, and personnel qualifying were to be assigned to military units in May and June 1951, together with the 1931 and 1932 age groups.
3. Military commission teams were very active in western Bulgaria during March 1951. They stopped over in the large district towns only long enough to complete the registration and examination of the youth in the immediate area and then moved to the next large town. A military commission team was in Petrich on 13 and 14 March. Quartered in the district school there, the commission was composed of a colonel, a captain, a lieutenant, a military doctor and a civilian doctor. On 5 March all youths of the 1931 age group from the village of Leskovo, some 20 in all, reported to the military commission in Gorna Dzhumaya. This call up was repeated throughout western Bulgaria, and presumably, throughout all of Bulgaria.
4. It is the practice to assign youths whose loyalty to the regime is questionable to Trudovak labor battalions. Men who had shown even the slightest unfriendliness toward the regime were sent to the labor battalions after a cursory physical examination rather than to regular military units. Also included in this category were gypsies and the physically unfit. Now, however, men serving with the labor battalions are being re-examined and assigned to regular military units.

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5. The great majority of youths of the 1929 age group from Pizin, Macedonia had been assigned to the labor battalions. On completion of their tour of duty, most of them were assigned to regular military units which left the battalions reduced to a minimum. In the villages of Gabrene and Baskalci (sic) in the Petrich district, Dobri Laki in the Sveti Vrach district and Simitli in the Gorna Dzhumaya district, there are only 6 recruits in the labor battalions, whereas there are 45 recruits in the regular military units.
6. Men of the 1928 age group serving in the military service were informed that they would be demobilized in March or early April 1951. As of May, however, none of the group had been demobilized and no further mention had been made of prospective demobilization.

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