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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 17 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Trenches in Levunovo Area
2. Cooperative of Levunovo

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A [REDACTED]

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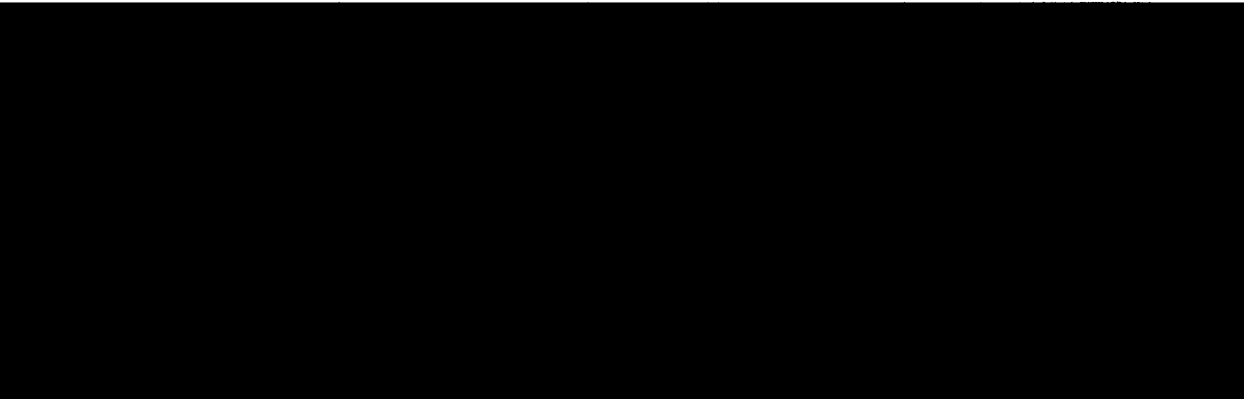
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DATE OF INFO. 25X1C [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. In the beginning of January, 1951 a trudovak company arrived in Levunovo and set up headquarters there. The troops arrived in groups of between five and twenty and when queried as to the purpose of their arrival, they gave various stories. The villagers finally found out that they were in Levunovo to dig a series of trenches. The trenches were completed on 3 May 1951 and the company was withdrawn from the village and returned to Sandanski.
2. The trenches in Levunovo extend for a distance of six kilometers. They begin on the hill called Skalata and pass through a place called Kiselitsa, cross the Kulata (sic) - Sofia road, pass through the location named Kupenitsa, and from there pass through Golyam Bair, the village of Hotovol, and end at a place called Popova Chuka. The trenches are for infantry and are interspersed with nests for light machine-guns, which are covered with dirt and twigs. There are also dugouts for ammunition. The trenches run in a zigzag manner and approximately every 300 meters there is a bunker for heavy machine-guns. There are two sets of trenches, one set being approximately 200 meters away from the other. One set follows the base of the hills, and the other set is approximately at the military crest of the hills.
3. There were no police, border guards, or military elements in the village of Levunovo. For emergencies, such elements were brought from Sandanski.
4. Until 1951 there was no cooperative farm (kolhoz) in the village of Levunovo. However, on 12 January 1951 such a cooperative was formed due to the extreme pressure of the Communist Party. The reason for the success in forming a cooperative was due entirely to the high quotas of cotton and tobacco levied upon the individual farmers; in case of failure to fulfill the contracts there were extreme fines of 50,000 to 200,000 leva.

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- 2 -

The peasantry had to sow the exact acreage stipulated to them by the authorities, whereas the Communists were able to plant an additional portion of land with cotton or whatever other item they were contracted for. Thus for two acres of cotton, a Communist would plant an additional half acre in order to make sure he fulfilled his quota. Many of the peasants were obliged to tear up their cotton-filled quilts and mattresses in order to obtain enough cotton to fulfill their quotas. Many of them also went to the city to buy quilts in order to obtain cotton. Before a peasant was committed to a prison or sentenced for not having fulfilled his quota, he was given an opportunity to join a cooperative in order to save himself. Many of the peasants were forced to do this, since they had large families and could not afford to go to prison.

5. At the formation of the cooperative, many youths entered the village Soviet meeting room and, in front of their parents who were opposing the cooperative movement, chanted various Communist slogans. Immediately after that, a prepared group of Communists rushed up and signed the pledge. After that another group of non-Communists also signed, since they had been previously contacted by the Communists and told that they would have choice jobs within the cooperative. This, in turn, forced many others to sign, and when informant left, there were 100 persons in the Levunovo Cooperative.
5. On 1 May 1951 a strike took place; many of the Cooperative members signed a petition to resign from the cooperative. Immediately a detail of State Security police was sent from Sandanski and the ringleaders were arrested. As a result, eleven people lost all their property and the rest, through intimidation, were forced back into the cooperative.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment: Possibly Novo Hojovo

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] on resistance to the kolhoz in Levunovo 25X1A

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