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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 12 September 1952

SUBJECT Machine and Tractor Centers of the  
Ministry of Agriculture

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(LISTED BELOW)

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- 25X1 1. Between 1945 and 1946, all tractors and agricultural machinery owned by the Swabians in the Banat district and Germans in Transylvania, as well as by Rumanian landowners and Kulaks, were requisitioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and formed into a loan pool which became known as Statiuni Pentru Inchiriat Masini Agricole - the Agricultural Machinery Center (AFSM). These centers were attached to the Gospodarii Statului (Gostat), the state farms created on the expropriated landowners' property. In 1948, these machine centers were detached from the Gostat, and became independent organizations known as Statiuni Masini Si Tractoare (SMT). The SMT assists the Kolkhozes, Intovarasire De Tarani - farmers' production cooperatives, and individual farmers in areas where there is a shortage of draft animals.
- 25X1 2. Up to 1 February 1952, a total of 138 SMT centers had been established. During 1952, the number of centers, which are to be set up in important agricultural districts, is to be 200. Not every district has the same number of centers, and there are centers of grades one, two, and three, in accordance with the agricultural importance of the district. Most of the centers are to be found in Ialomita and in the area around Constanta, as many new "colonisers" have been transferred there from the evacuated southern and western Banat region (Yugoslav-Hungarian frontier districts). In 1941, ten new SMT centers were created in the Constanta area.
- 25X1 3. Every SMT center has its own workshop for minor repairs on the spot, as well as a canteen for personnel. In 1951, farms were set up near these centers in order to supply the canteens with vegetables, milk and eggs.
- 4. The SMT center employs a manager, a political assistant manager, a chief

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accountant, and three or four accountants, a mechanic, a foreman, three or four locksmiths and between 40 and 60 tractor drivers. The administrative officials are treated as government officials and receive monthly salaries according to specified grades. The tractor drivers and other machine operators are paid in kind, according to their services, and in accordance with special tables varying for the different districts. In principle, they are required to sell the grain they receive to the government at fixed prices, but in actual fact much of it finds its way to the black market. In spite of strict controls and the relatively large bookkeeping staff, thefts and fraud occur in the payments in kind section and also in the fuel department.

5. The SMT centers are under the jurisdiction of the local soviets (Sfatul Popular Local), which employ specialists who keep in touch with the regional soviets. The regional soviets (Sfatul Regional) have a separate service for agriculture and another for tractors and machinery, each with a manager, a technician, an inspector and an instructor. These regional centers are in touch with the SMT Department of the Ministry for Agriculture in Bucharest, which also employs technicians and inspectors to supervise its 138 branches.
6. Every SMT tractor center is supplied with a fuel depot for solar and diesel oil and gasoline. A special SMT type of lubricating oil is being experimented with, as all of the types of oil used in the IAR tractors are either too heavy or too light.
7. The tractors and tractor drivers are organized into brigades, a "brigadier" being responsible for the work and fuel consumption of four tractor drivers and their machines. Each driver must account for his mileage and fuel consumption. Fuel consumption tables have been established for every phase of work. If a driver exceeds his authorized allocation, the difference in cost is deducted from his earnings. If he saves fuel, 50 percent of the savings are paid to him as a bonus. All non-productive journeys must be authorized by the "brigadier".
8. SMT centers undertake work primarily for collectives and cooperatives but may assist individual farmers who own seven to eight hectares of land each, after the collectives and cooperatives have been served. The system of accounting is very complicated as the work is paid for in a percentage of the grain produced. Special tables have been computed for all districts, based on local conditions and types of soil. The type of grain grown is taken into consideration, including the differences for autumn and spring sowings, for deep ploughing, for harrowing, cutting and threshing. For ploughing to a depth of 18-20 centimeters, the payment demanded is 100 kilograms of wheat per hectare and more for rye. The price for harvesting is 10 kilograms of wheat per hectare, and for threshing 7 percent of the harvest. There are special tariffs for cultivators and all other types of work.
9. About 6,000 tractors were distributed to centers throughout Rumania up to the beginning of 1952, 60 percent of which are usually in working order. One thousand of these tractors are old machines requisitioned either from the Germans or from expropriated landowners, of such makes as Fordson, Lanz and Hanomag. The remaining 5,000 are of the IAR 22 or IAR 23 types (now called Sovromtractor), which are still being manufactured at Brasov. These tractors are copies of the Hanomag model, but are made so poorly that they last about two months. The cooling system is bad so that no suitable oil can be found for the motors, and

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the gaskets of the cylinder heads are inferior. The 40 horsepower motor barely develops 20 horsepower, and breakdowns are very frequent. Provisional arrangements have been made for the import from the USSR of 2,000 Soviet KD 35 horsepower caterpillar tractors, but the trial consignment was found unsatisfactory.

10. There are 100 or 110 combines, pulled by tractors, distributed throughout Rumania. Seven to ten of these combines are of the Soviet anto-propulsion type; the others were manufactured in the Vasile Roaita Factory in Bucharest patterned after a U. S. model. They should be capable of dealing with 100 tons of grain a day, but in actual fact, cannot do more than 10 tons per day.
11. In the regional centers, large repair workshops have been set up. There are about 20 of these and they are known as Centre Mecanice SMT (CMSMT). The four largest workshops are at Otopeni, Craiova, Arad and Timisoara and are better equipped than those at Rosiori De Vede, Constanta, Galati, Tulcea, Iasi, Botosani, Barlad, Tecuci, Giurgiu, Oradea, Sibiu, Caracal and Cluj. They have received large Soviet lathes and cylindrical grinding machines, and are able to carry out all types of repairs and major overhaul work.
12. Tractor driver courses of three months' duration are held at every center, and in the regional center, six months' courses are held which also include theoretical instruction. Apart from the courses there are schools for "brigadiers", technicians and inspectors, and separate schools for agricultural specialists. One technician and one agricultural specialist are attached to every regional center as instructors.

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 12 September 1952

SUBJECT Rumanian Government's Attempt  
to Enforce Collectivization  
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- 25X1 1. The area of land under cultivation increased greatly during 1951 and every effort was made by the government to force the peasants into the collectives, including such means as confiscation of all their cattle.
- 25X1 2. Early in 1952, a law was promulgated requiring every farmer to supply a certain amount of meat and milk, regardless of whether he raised cattle or not. If not, he has to supply his quota by buying it elsewhere. The meat and milk supplied to the government under this scheme is of poor quality and is used for local consumption only.

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