

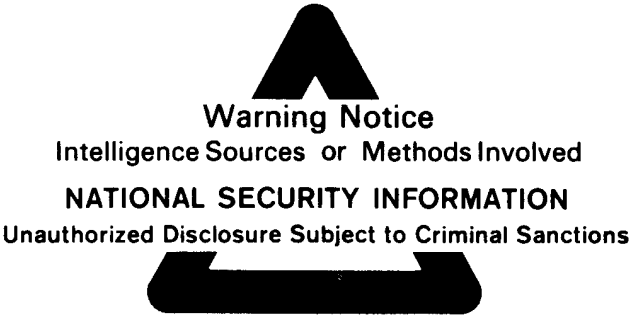
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Page 1 of 2

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NPIC/IEG (3/84)

16 MARCH 1984

ORDNANCE R&D FACILITY
STARA ZAGORA, BULGARIA (SWN)

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: AN ORDNANCE R&D FACILITY WAS IDENTIFIED IN BULGARIA FOR THE FIRST TIME AT STARA ZAGORA. THIS FACILITY WILL ALLOW THE BULGARIANS TO DO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TESTING OF NEW, INDIGENOUS DESIGNED TOWED AND SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY AS WELL AS OTHER BALLISTIC TESTING. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: STARA ZAGORA ORDNANCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FACILITY WAS IN THE MID-STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION ON [REDACTED] (GRAPHIC 1). THE FACILITY IS APPROXIMATELY 4.5 NM NORTHWEST OF STARA ZAGORA. IT CONSISTS OF FIVE SEPARATE AREAS; AN ARTILLERY RANGEHEAD, A BALLISTIC TEST STATION, AN AMMUNITION STORAGE/LOADING AREA, AND A SUPPORT AREA. A GRIDDED IMPACT AREA IS OUTSIDE THE FENCELINE 4.5 NM SOUTHWEST OF THE ARTILLERY RANGEHEAD (NOT ON GRAPHICS). (SWN)

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THE BALLISTIC TEST STATION (SEE INSET, GRAPHIC 1) IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWESTERN SECTION OF THE FACILITY AND HAS TWO FIRING POSITIONS SEPARATED BY ONE REVETTED, FREE STANDING BLAST WALL. GRAPHIC 2 DEPICTS THE OTHER MAJOR FEATURES. THE RANGEHEAD CONTAINS SIX FIRING POSITIONS SEPARATED BY FIVE REVETTED, FREE-STANDING BLAST WALLS. AN AMMUNITION STORAGE/LOADING AREA CONTAINS FIVE REVETTED STORAGE BUILDINGS AND TWO AMMUNITION LOADING BUILDINGS. THE SUPPORT AREA CONTAINS A BALLISTIC ANALYSIS BUILDING SIMILAR TO THOSE SEEN IN THE SOVIET UNION (SEE INSET, GRAPHIC 2), ONE HIGH-BAY MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND SEVERAL SUPPORT BUILDINGS. (SWN)

ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THIS FACILITY IS COMPARABLE IN SIZE, BUT PROBABLY WITHOUT THE SOPHISTICATION, OF SOME MAJOR SOVIET RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RANGES SUCH AS KRASNOARMEYSK ORDNANCE

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Page 2 of 2

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NPIC/IEG (3/84)

16 MARCH 1984

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT [REDACTED] UNDER LICENSE FROM
THE USSR, BULGARIA CURRENTLY PRODUCES THE 122MM SELF-PROPELLED
HOWITZER M-1974 AT CHERVEN BRYAG ARMORED VEHICLE ENGINEERING
PLANT RUPTSI [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 100 NM NORTHWEST OF
STARA ZAGORA. THE CHERVEN BRYAG PLANT HAS VERY LIMITED
ARTILLERY TEST FACILITIES. (SWN) [REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 42-29-55N 025-35-30E (S)

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