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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Tractor Factories

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1. The Sovrom Tractor organization (formerly part Rumanian, at least nominally) has now passed into the hands of the Soviets. It embraces all factories in Rumania making tractors and similar equipment in the Rumanian People's Republic. These factories began to be effective and adequately equipped in the beginning of 1954. They now expect to reach an annual production of 10,000 tractors, with horsepowers of 35, 50, 85, and even 110.

2. All production (motors, caterpillar treads etc) is adapted to quick turn-over to military purposes. A few changes, which could be made within a few weeks, would suffice to make any of these factories capable of producing small tanks and attack tanks.

3. Preparations in the Braşov factories indicate clearly that, at the present moment, /April 1954/ the Soviets are about to begin changing over to tank production.

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25X1 [redacted] the Sovrom Tractor factories, especially those at Braşov, will become one of the most important tank production and repair centers anywhere near the Soviet frontier. It will also serve for repair, perhaps close to the future battle front. The factories will both make and repair large and small tanks.

5. At present, all "tractors" beyond 35 hp. are sent at once to the USSR where, it is possible though not proved, the larger ones may already be in process of transformation into tanks. Tractors of 15 to 20 hp. are being kept for Rumanian agricultural needs. It seems practically impossible, however, that a tractor of no more than 35 hp. could possibly be used for any tank, however light.

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