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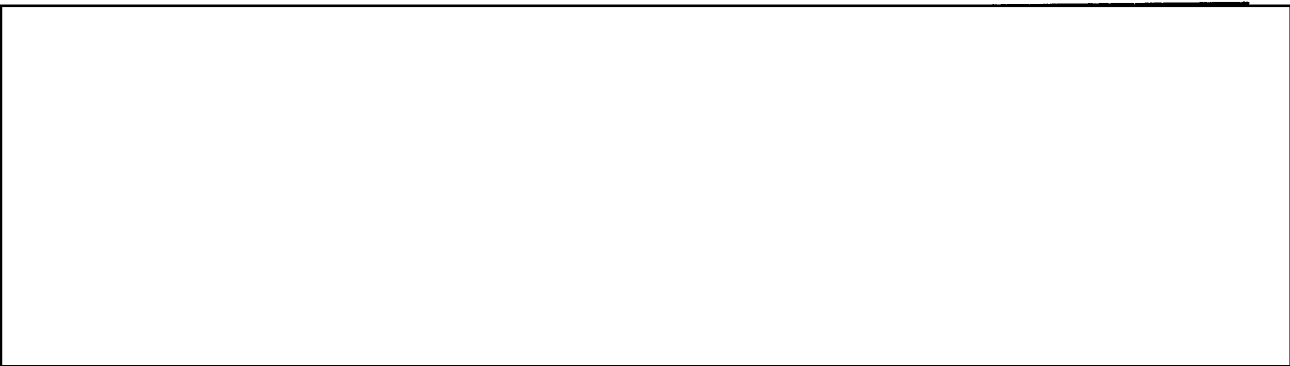
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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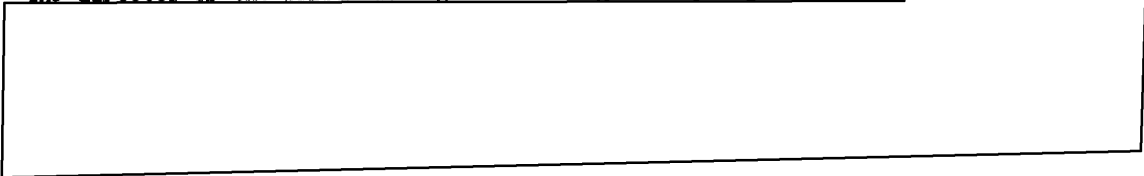
COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Incidents at the "Pirgovo" Concentration Camp 2. Morale of Trudovak Forces 3. Anti-Communists Demonstrations	DATE DISTR.	15 January 1954	
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Regime at the Ruse Okrug Prison (1949 - 1951)

1. The director of the prison during this time (probably Angelov (fnu)) [REDACTED]

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2. In early 1951, this same prison director was appointed director of the construction of the Dobrudzha railroad line.

Incident at the "Pirgovo" Concentration Camp

3. On 12 July 1949, the internees of the "Pirgovo" concentration camp caught a dead horse in the Danube River, pulled it ashore, cut it up in pieces, and after boiling or frying it for a short time, ate it.¹

Trudovak Morale

4. The morale of the Trudovaks is very low. Most of them do not fulfill their prescribed norms in spite of the system in force of praises, awards, strong control, and punishment. Since most of the Trudovaks are unable to fulfill the norms, they are punished. The great difference in the clothing, food and regimen of the Trudovaks when compared to that of the Army is also a cause for low morale among the Trudovaks. A very great difference is especially noticed in the barracks occupied by the Army as opposed

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to those occupied by the Trudovak forces. In spite of orders to the contrary, there are sometimes gloomy mutterings expressing open dissatisfaction on the part of the Trudovaks. The regimen of the Trudovaks is so bad and inhuman that they prefer to be put in prison where they will not have to work continuously.

5. The Trudovak soldier Venko Georgiev Gekov [redacted]

[redacted] was threatened with imprisonment on 26 April 1953 by Lieutenant Georgiev (fnu) [redacted] political commander of the Stalin battalion of the Burgas brigade. At this, Gekov replied: "Only in prison will I find peace; nowhere else." In spite of these words and his non-fulfillment of norms, no action was taken against him after that. His statement and his conduct were greeted with sympathy by the other Trudovaks in this unit.

6. The food of the Trudovaks is also very poor and insufficient. For example, on 10, 11, and 12 April 1953, Podelenie 35-65, Aksakovo, Varna (now Stalin) Okoliya, a unit consisting of 150 men, were served in the morning, noon, and evening, only boiled potatoes with a little fat. There was open grumbling and dissatisfaction among the Trudovak men, expressed in mass complaints before the command personnel. In spite of this, no change was made in the diet.

Anti-Communist Demonstrations

7. [redacted] three or four days prior to 1 May, in Peshtera village, Plovdiv Okoliya, hand-written leaflets with following slogans were taken down from the walls:

"Down with the Communists"

"Death to the Communists"

"Long Live the Americans"

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8. [redacted] in the neighboring village of Stryama, Plovdiv Okoliya, on the eve of 1 May, while waiting for some kind of a delegation of Chinese, Soviets, Rumanians, Hungarians, and others touring the TKZSs of the okrug and looking over the livestock farm of the cooperative of Stryama village itself, the swine farm was burned with all its buildings and pigs. The fire broke out at 1:00 a.m., immediately after the changing of the guard. The two guards who were on duty were arrested. The damage done was allegedly very great.

Comments:

1. One of the participants in the incident reported on was Toma Kochev Kobakov,

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