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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 26 January 1953

SUBJECT Effects of the Monetary Reform

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DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. After the Bulgarian monetary reform, all laborers, employees, officials, and persons classed as "workers" or "useful workers" received coupons with which to buy food at relatively low prices. There still existed, however, stores where foodstuffs could be bought without coupons. Their prices were much higher than those in stores where coupons were required.
2. Prices with coupons were taken as the base for establishing new prices at the time of the monetary reform of 10 May 1952. Coupons have been suppressed (sic) for "useful workers."
3. As a result (sic) of the monetary reform, wages for workers were increased by 10 percent. The following table shows the ultimate increase in the cost of living for workers after the monetary reform:

Foodstuff	Quantity	Price in Old Currency, with Coupons	Price in Old Leva, Free Market	Conversion to New Leva	Current Price
Black bread	1 kilo	37.50	--	1.50	2.60
White flour	1 kilo	80.00	--	3.20	6.80
Macaroni	1 kilo	105.00	--	4.02	9.20
Rice	1 kilo	150.00	500.00	6.00	10.00
Oil	1 kilo	170.00	560.00	6.80	16.00
Lard	1 kilo	250.00	700.00	10.00	22.00
Beef	1 kilo	150.00	300.00	6.00	16.00
Mutton	1 kilo	250.00	500.00	9.00	19.20
Fish	1 kilo	200.00	--	8.00	16.00
Milk	1 liter	60.00	--	2.40	3.20

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4. The old price of butter on the free market was 700 leva per kilo and the price of cheese on the free market was 600 leva per kilo.
5. The cost of living for workers has increased between 67 and 150 percent.

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