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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

FROM: Deputy Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence

SUBJECT: DD/P Publication on Bulgaria (GR-90)

1. Forwarded herewith in response to your request is a copy of the DD/P publication on Bulgaria about which you phoned me yesterday.

2. I had no knowledge of this publication prior to your call. However, on checking into the matter I found that [REDACTED] Chief of our Publication Division, learned some months ago that such a document was in process in DD/P and reported the matter to [REDACTED] information was that it was to be a "Finding List" to satisfy an operational requirement in DD/P, and not a gazetteer.

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3. It will be noted that this GR-90 issue is not titled "Gazetteer", but it does duplicate the NIS Gazetteer to some extent since it lists populated places and railroad stations as does the NIS Gazetteer. The DD/P issue also indicates opposite each such name the administrative division and subdivision in which it is located, which differs from the NIS Gazetteer format where these divisions and subdivisions are run in the consolidated alphabetical listing of places and physical features in the area.

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4. The NIS Preliminary Gazetteer on Bulgaria was published in 1950, and the DD/P GR-90 issue carries a May 1956 dateline. The latter does, therefore, have a more complete listing of populated places, and also more up-to-date data on the places listed than the Preliminary NIS Gazetteer. However, it is our understanding that the additional names listed in GR-90 were transliterated by DD/P using the BGN system, but they were never reviewed and approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, so they cannot be considered official standard geographic names. It is known that the NIS Gazetteer was used as a reference source in the preparation of GR-90, and the names and coordinates drawn from this source do, of course, represent official determinations of BGN, but there is no indication of which ones were taken from this source.

5. In our opinion GR-90 is, in fact, a "Finding List" and not a gazetteer. It has not been approved by BGN and it is incomplete from the NIS standpoint, since it does not cover the many physical features covered by the NIS Gazetteer such as rivers, seas, lakes, mountains, capes, bays, etc., all of which are essential to production of NIS.

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Enclosure:  
DD/P GR-90