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PROVISIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

PETROLEUM IN THE SOVIET BLOC

AVAILABILITY OF CRUDE PETROLEUM IN THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES

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**FOREWORD**

This report is one of a series of provisional reports pertaining to petroleum in the Soviet Bloc. The entire series is intended to cover all phases of petroleum, natural gas, and synthetic liquid fuels in the Soviet Bloc. These reports are presented as an intermediate step in consolidating pertinent intelligence on the subject and not as a finished study. In the consolidation of the available information, various reports and documents representing research by other intelligence agencies were utilized along with the results of research and analysis by members of the staff of CIA.

It is intended that this series of reports will serve the following purposes:

- a. Represent a base for contributions and additions by CIA and other agencies actively interested in petroleum intelligence.
- b. Facilitate the selection of the specific and detailed gaps in intelligence warranting priority attention.
- c. Provide the basis for a broad study on petroleum in the Soviet Bloc and various studies directed toward specific critical problems.

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Does this footnote  
represent a "gap  
in intelligence" or,  
inversely, a statement  
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II-A

AVAILABILITY OF CRUDE PETROLEUM IN THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES

Summary

The petroleum industry in the European Satellite Area (including Austria) makes an important contribution to the Soviet economy by producing a quantity of crude oil equal to 20 percent of the USSR output. In 1949 the six countries possessing known deposits of crude petroleum produced nearly 6.6 million metric tons and it is estimated that by the end of 1953 this will have risen to about eleven million tons. The table below shows the approximate trend in production in the six countries from 1949 through the first half of 1953 and indicates an increase of around one million tons each year for the whole area. It also can be seen that three countries, Rumania, Austria and Hungary, account for about 95 percent of the total output.

Estimated Crude Oil Output 1949 - 1st half 1953

Country	Thousand Metric Tons				
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1st Ha. f. 1953
Rumania	4,500	4,600 <u>1/</u>	6,000	6,200	3,200
Austria	1,200	1,700	2,400 <u>2/</u>	3,000	<u>3/</u> 1,750 <u>3/</u>
Hungary	503	500 <u>3/</u>	510 <u>3/</u>	520	275
Albania	198	200	250	300	175
Poland	180	160 <u>4/</u>	175 <u>4/</u>	235	125
Czechoslovakia	<u>31</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>25</u>
Total	6,582	7,210	9,385	10,305	5,550

a/ Because of scarcity of information on the Matzen Field the 1953 estimate of Austrian output may have a large margin of error.

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2. Rumania

Not only is petroleum Rumania's basic industry, but Rumania is still the most important oil producer in Europe (Section II-B), with the exception of the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the 1950 output of 4.6 million tons of crude oil was only 55 percent of the 1930 peak production of 8.7 million. Over 85 percent of the crude oil is produced at the fields concentrated around Ploesti, some of which have been in production since 1860. (Table 1).

TABLE 1. 1951 Crude Oil Extraction in Rumania 5/

Field	Thousand Metric Tons	
	Production	Percent of Total
Philipesti de Padure - Cervenia	270	4.5
Moreni-Tulcani-Suravelele-Bana-Piscu	270	4.5
Gura Ocnitei-Valle de Cociacu-Tigani-St. Georges	306	5.1
Razvad-Valea-Volvazilor-Orhova	270	4.5
Bucuresti	18	0.3
Teis-Dolcesti-Sotanga	332	5.2
Suta	340	5.2
Balcei-Cotol-Tufani-Lake-Hilvesti-Tintea-Floresti-Calinesti	1,518	25.8
Aricesti-Haimahale-Bratascuana-Vladeni	60	1.1
Campina-Pitigoiu-Draganas	138	2.3
Busteni-Cocorosi-Rosca-Runcu-Mislea-Chicurea	60	1.1
Boldesti-Marsa-Po Schiau	372	5.2
Magurele	45	0.8
Soarelui-Poiana de Varbilou	5	0.1
Copaceni-Gura Viihoara	102	1.7
Pacureti	12	0.2
Latita	6	0.1
Ceptura-Urleti-Valea Calugareasca	330	5.6
Tega-Arbanasi	12	0.2
Sarata-Monteoru	12	0.2
Total Ploesti Area	3,220	57.1
Berca (Buzau)	372	6.2
Targul-Moinesti-Tateanu	402	6.7
Grand Total	5,000	100.0

Under the current five year plan (1951-1955), the goals for 1953 and 1955 are 8.7 million and 10.0 million tons respectively. Both appear unrealistic because of the premature exhaustion of existing fields caused chiefly by the wasteful Soviet method of exploitation and failure to uncover any large new deposits. Shortages of drilling equipment have been cut off by the West, and only limited supplies have been obtained from Czechoslovakia and the USSR. However, in the light of the reported increase in production in 1951 and with the help of several new discoveries, output can be increased an estimated 200,000 tons annually during the next few years.

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Extensive exploration has been carried on since the close of World War II in Transylvania, the Banat, Southern Rumania and Moldavia, with some reported success (Section II-B). The most fruitful search has been in Moldavia and in the Judetul of Dambovita, near Targoviste, where two strikes have been made. The most important of these are an extension of the known deposits in Moldavia, a step-out of the older Gura Ocniței fields, southeast of Targoviste, and a small field at Suta Secca. Some deeper drilling has been done in other producing fields where new producing horizons have been opened up. The results of these operations probably account for the increased 1951 output.

2. Austria

Austria is the second most important oil producing country in the European Satellite Area. All of the known oil fields are located northeast of Vienna in the Soviet Zone of Occupation. The most important development in Austria since World War II has been the opening of the Matzen oil fields by the SMV, where a rich strike was reportedly made in February 1949. 6/ As a result of this discovery Austrian crude oil output has risen from 1.2 million tons in 1949 to an estimated 2.4 million tons in 1951. This trend is expected to continue with Matzen more than compensating for the drop in production at the older fields. The wells at Matzen were reported in early March 1951 to have a daily output of 4,000 tons but limited storage and refining facilities forced the Soviets to limit production temporarily to 3,200 tons per 24-hour period. 7/ More recent reports indicate the increasing importance of Matzen.

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The importance attained by the Matzen field during the last two years is shown in Table 2 below from which it can be seen that over 50 percent of the estimated output in Austria in 1951 came from this area. The fact that a daily production goal of 5,000 tons by September 1951 was set by the Soviets is an indication of the importance attached by them to Matzen. 8/ In addition to continued drilling in this vicinity, reports indicate test drillings have been carried out in the Floridsdorf and Kagran areas and in the flood area of the Danube near the Lobau refinery. In the latter case exploration has brought favorable results. 9/ It seems likely that the Soviets are counting on Austria, particularly Matzen, to compensate for the lack of success in rehabilitating the Rumanian petroleum industry.

TABLE 2. Crude Oil Extraction in Austria 2/

	1951	Thousand Metric Tons
	Production	Percent of Total
Matzen	1,320	55
Mühlberg	408	17
Zistersdorf	384	16
Aderklaa	192	8
Hauskirchen	48	2
Others	48	2
Total	2,400	100

3. Hungary.

Hungary, the third largest oil producing area among the European Satellites, has an annual output of about one half million tons of crude oil. Efforts to increase this by exploration and by the wasteful practice of drilling intermediate wells in the already producing fields have not met with much success. 10/ The Hungarian Government has, however, been able to maintain the level of output and may, in the next year or two, increase it slightly by these methods. Numerous reports of the discovery of extensive oil deposits near Debrecen in eastern Hungary

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indicate a possible rehabilitation of the industry, but it is not known whether these fields are in production.

Virtually all of the crude oil produced in Hungary comes from the Lisse oil fields at the southwest end of Lake Balaton, and the estimated 1951 production by field is shown in Table 3. A negligible quantity has been produced in the past at Bukksek in the Matra Mountains of northeastern Hungary but it is doubtful that there is any production there now.

TABLE 3. Crude Oil Extraction in Hungary 10/

	1951	Thousand Metric Tons
	Production	Percent of Total
Lovaszi	270	53
Budafepusata	204	40
Hahot	36	7
Total	510	100

#### 4. Albania.

Albania produces an inferior type of crude oil, high in asphalt and sulphur, at the rate of about 200,000 tons a year. Great emphasis has been placed on petroleum since control of Albania has been taken over by the USSR, as evidenced by Soviet Missions sent for the purpose of expanding the petroleum industry. The producing fields are the Patos fields, northeast of Valona, and the Kucove field, in the Devoli Valley. Reports indicate that most of the emphasis is being placed on the Patos field by the Soviets. Extensive exploration is being carried on and it has been reported that an oil producing structure has been discovered in the Skodra Lake area. 11/ Also a rich oil-bearing extension of the Kucove field has been reported in the Tomorice Valley. 12/ As a result of the increased Soviet

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interest and the reported discoveries, crude petroleum output probably will increase in 1951, 1952 and 1953 to an estimated 250,000, 300,000 and 350,000 tons respectively.

5. Poland.

Before World War II Poland was the third largest producer of crude oil in Europe, exceeded only by the USSR and Rumania. The boundary changes at the close of the war deprived Poland of from two-thirds to three-fourths of its oil when the Drohobycz district and the Stanislawow field were ceded to the Soviet Union. After this, crude production rose from a 1946 low of 115,000 tons, about one-fifth of the prewar level, to approximately 150,000 tons in 1949 and 160,000 tons in 1950. Under the Six Year Plan, output is to reach 394,000 tons in 1955, but since the only oil-producing area in Poland is the area around Jaslo (4) where some wells have been producing since 1886, the chances of attaining this goal are slight. Since exploration by the government has been fruitless to date, it is doubtful that output will exceed 200,000 tons a year.

TABLE 4. Crude Oil Extraction in Poland 13/

	1951	Thousand Metric Tons
	Production	Percent of Total
Gerlice-Lipnicki	35	20
Grabownica	23	13
Turaszowka	19	11
Wankowa	19	11
Bobrka	12	7
Others	67	38
Total	175	100

6. Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia's production of crude oil has never been large and what is produced is a heavy non-paraffinuous type containing little gasoline and kerosene.

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By far the most important producing area is along the Moravian-Slovakian border near Austria, in the vicinity of Gbely and Hodonin. In this area there are four fields in operation, at Breclav, Gbely, Stephanov and Lab, which produced 31,000 tons of crude in 1949 and 50,000 tons in 1950. Extensive exploration is being carried on and it is reported that oil has been discovered near the village of Plavecky Stvrtok, northeast of Malacky. 14/ On the whole the results of this test drilling have been discouraging and the output of petroleum will probably remain at about 50,000 tons a year.

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