

25X1

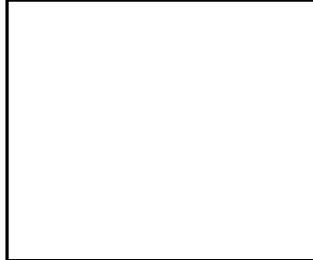


CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria  
SUBJECT Literature and Morale  
25X1



DATE DISTR. 3 FEB 54

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

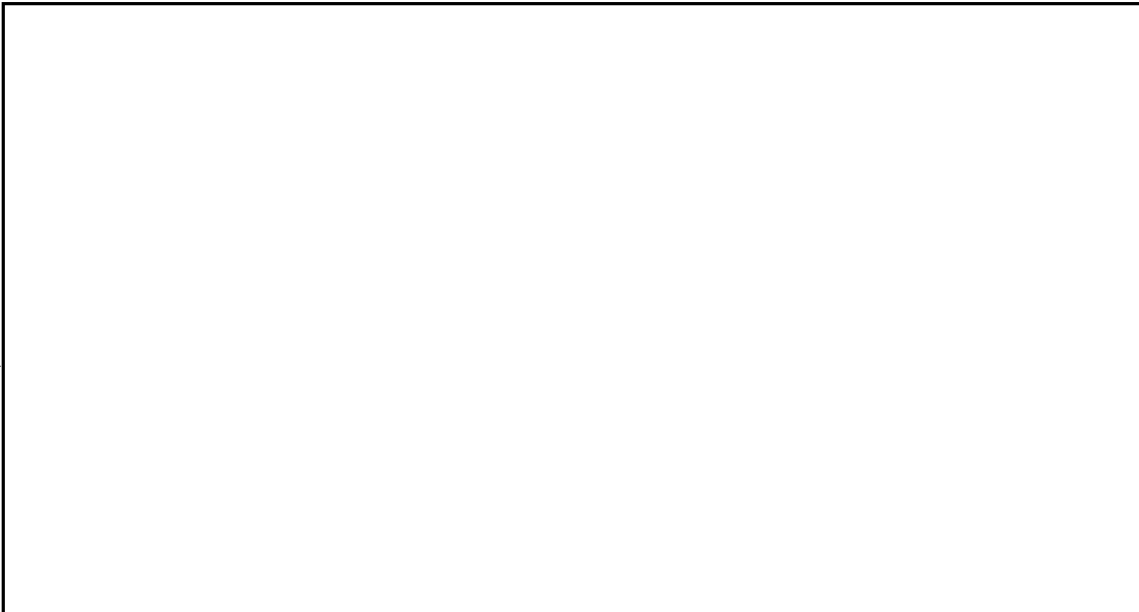
NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION



3. "The Bulgarian writers loudly derive inspiration from the Soviet Union. The cultural attachments between the two nations are being emphasized as never before since 1970, when Alexander II 'emancipated' the Bulgarians. The chief of the Bulgarian writers is the elderly Uristo Radevsky, Secretary General of the Union of Bulgarian Writers. He was very impressed by Moscow, which he had only recently visited. He spoke of the university, the intellectual gatherings, the inherent brilliance of the pseudo-scholars.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

4. [redacted] their inspiration from Soviet literature, in spite of well meaning [redacted] Radevsky, Todorov and other eminent men of letters of Bulgaria, has reached a point much removed from the spirit of national consciousness.

25X1



CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUT ON	STATE	EV	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI					
--------------	-------	----	------	------	-----	-----	--	--	--	--	--

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

- 2 -

5. "Anghel Todorov, one of the Bulgarian critics, in his defense suggested: 'The ties of the Bulgarian people, the Bulgarian intellectuals with Russian literature date back to the pre-revolutionary period. The close similarity between the two languages, the common humanistic tendencies of the two people, directed the attention of the Bulgarian people in their thirst for knowledge towards Russian culture and literature represented by the gigantic figures of Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Tolstoy, and Gorky.'
6. "Radevsky said: 'In Soviet literature our people, our intellectuals saw the reflection of that new spirit coming to the fore in the Soviet Union which our people so eagerly desired.' This was not a platitudinous statement.
7. "Almost all Bulgarian literature [REDACTED] had some Russian influence. Even the straight news reporting on a factory or a collective farm has taken on the Soviet style of scenario descriptiveness. A piece on the Lenin Plant in an official magazine begins thus: 'At night when the dim of the last train dies down and the tail light of the last wagon vanishes in the darkness, quiet settles on the little station. The late travelers scatter in the dark village street. Here and there a dog barks sleepily and the windows light up--a sign that the owner has come home. 'Most of the travelers take the road coming from Tsurkva village; they are headed towards the hundreds of lights which look like a beautiful amphitheatrically-built harbor from a distance. These are the lights of the Lenin Plant--the first metallurgical plant in our country.'
8. "In poetry Vladimir Mayakovsky is the great Soviet writer who has inspired a full half-century of Bulgarian writers. Geo Milev, the Bulgarian poet who first took to German expressionism, was the first to adopt the 'revolutionary poetry.' Hristo Smyrnensky, the Bulgarian revolutionary darling, became another of Mayakovsky's admirers, followed a host of living Bulgarian writers. Todorov even suggested: 'Today one cannot speak of the renaissance of present-day Bulgarian poetry, or its great successes without pointing out Mayakovsky's influence. We study the spirit of his poetry and follow his example in linking the artistic work with the fundamental interests of the people in their struggle for socialism.'
9. "Hristo Smyrnensky, the late Bulgarian revolutionary poet, who died in 1923 and whose 30th anniversary of his death was being celebrated [REDACTED] in Sofia [about late October 1953], was a colorful personality. He died at the age of 25 and Dimitrov called him 'with his talent and the nature of his militant literary works, Smyrnensky is our Bulgarian Mayakovsky.' And perhaps a glimpse of Smyrnensky's works may give an idea of the overall Bulgarian literature today. His poem Moscow, which is his ideological homage to the Mecca of Communism, is a tribute to a 'flame, throbbing pulse again!'
- 'Moscow! Moscow!  
Against your firmly armored gates of stone  
Were dashed the hostile waves of hate,  
And woe and misery for ever gone,  
Where'er you cast your ruby shade.'
10. "But it is his short story 'The Story of the Stairs'--dedicated to all those who will say--'this has nothing to do with me,' which can compare well internationally. It deals with the development and decline of fascism in a slightly surrealist style. It is about a young man with unbowed head and tightly clenched fists who climbs a staircase, is confronted by a devil and made to give at each step something dear to him. At first his limbs and at last his heart and memory. The young man gives it all to eventually find himself on the top of the world.

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

11. "He looked at the feasting princes, then looked down where the ragged grey mob raged and cursed. He looked, but not one muscle twitched in his face; it remained radiant, gay, pleased. Down below he saw crowds in their holiday clothes and their moans were hymns. "Who are you," the devil asked him in his hoarse voice.

12. "I am a prince by birth, and the gods are my brothers! Oh, how beautiful is the earth and how happy are the people."

13. "Such is the school of literature that abounds in Bulgaria today. Internationally it does not have much influence, for it is at best a second-rate version of Russian and Polish literature. But occasionally some new and refreshing pieces are written. Bulgaria is a country which has hitherto been lost to the world--both Western and Eastern. World interest in her has been very meagre and Bulgaria herself played no role in the modern world as such.

14. "Nevertheless, there is a strange magic in the air

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

[Redacted]

15. "The parrot-like expressions of the glories of the People's Republic, the inherent contradictions in their own economic achievements, and the very messy form of Marxism practiced makes reality an enigma itself. Here have intermingled bourgeois courtesies and fascist scrutiny, Marxist doctrines and Moscow's state capitalism, the unperturbed, uncollectivized Macedonian peasant, and the highly Party-lined worker at the major plants--all in a way to make Bulgaria the greatest enigma for the Western mind.

16. "The morale of the people is nevertheless quite in keeping with the spirit of a change. It is not the intrinsic change which Marxism promises but the change and the promise of prosperity people like. And never before have the people been offered prosperity. This hope keeps Bulgaria where it is today. When this hope fades or else disappears, there will be the same humdrum existence but no volcanic eruption. The Bulgarians are just not made of that stuff.

17. "In Bulgaria no stimulant ideology haunts the masses as such, or determine any course for them. And there will be no significant change either for, or against, Moscovite Cominformism in the coming years."

- end -

124.13 N(BI)  
124.13 20M(N)  
837 20M

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL