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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 25 Oct 1954

SUBJECT Location of Military Installations/Fall
Water Supply/Underground Airdrome

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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(1) Volaged:(waterfall)

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- a. In 1947 Bulgarian engineers completed a series of tunnels underneath these hills. [redacted] Shortly after the tunnels were completed the Bulgarian Government dispatched several platoons of soldiers to the site. What had once been an area of free and unrestricted travel was in early 1947 closed to unauthorized travel. Vohyn's importance in Bulgarian economy could be attributed to several factors. First, it is a chief source of soft water. But, of more interest is the fact that Vohyn is the source of at least one third of the total water supply for the city of Sofia.

(2) Meteorological Station:

- a. This installation is distinctly visible from the air since it is

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one of the only two buildings located on Mount Vitosha. It should prove an excellent landmark for aircraft approaching Sofia from the west or southwest. In addition to meteorological functions this station serves as a lookout or observation post. It is fully equipped with telegraphic and telephonic facilities and has direct lines to military headquarters command in Sofia. To facilitate a fix from the air on a cloudy day it is possible to locate this installation which lies about 300 to 400 meters below the tip of Mount Vitosha [the tip is Chrai Vrkh (Black Peak)] to the northwest of Chrai Vrkh. The area around the meteorological station has been cleared of timber; consequently, one will notice what appears to be a "fall line" or timber line about 4/5 of the way up the mountain side. The station, as previously stated, can be located by scanning this "fall line."

- (3) Boyana: [A village with a population of about 3,500, located south, southwest of Sofia on the north slope of the Vitosha Mountain] This village of itself has no particular significance or value; however, during World War II [] military personnel directed the Bulgarian military in digging large caverns into the sides of Mount Vitosha. Significantly, these large excavations were used to store considerable quantities of military equipment and supplies. 50X1-HUM
- (4) Gorna Banja: [A village of 3,200 people, west of the city of Sofia, also a suburb, noted for its therapeutic thermal springs] In 1947 Gorna Banja was surrounded by a large number of long-range anti-aircraft radar-controlled guns. [] least fifty 88 mm [] guns distributed around Gorna Banja. The heaviest concentration of 88 mm was to the south of the village. The terrain around Gorna Banja is flat. There are a number of military barracks in the area which can be easily perceived from the air. Due to the flat terrain and military barracks effective camouflage is extremely difficult. No bunkers or tunnels were existent. It must be remembered however, that Tito and Yugoslavia were considered friends until 26 Jan 48. In all probability since the Tito rupture, the Communists have changed the fortifications around Gorna Banja considerably. Nevertheless the area should be deemed of strategic value, for during World War II the anti-aircraft units around Gorna Banja were effective in defending Sofia from aircraft flying into Bulgaria from the west. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
- (5) Vrshishan. South of the village of Vrshishan was located another AA battery consisting of about thirty 88 mm pieces. This unit of anti-aircraft artillery was radar controlled. In 1947 Vrshishan was also the site of an excellent radar station. The terrain about the village is flat, devoid of trees and is easy to spot from the air.
- (6) The figures encircled at point Bc 6 are all buildings. When facing the chart, the building to the left is a three-story hotel. [] it has approximately 200 rooms. The circle between the two buildings represents a radar station. This station as late as 1947 served as the Central Control Center for warning Sofia. The radar station is a two-story building somewhat smaller than the hotel building to the left. The third building, the one to the extreme right, is also a hotel. It is a three-story building but is considerably smaller than the previously mentioned hotel building. 50X1-HUM
- (7) Simeonovo: (written). The area around Simeonovo was most heavily fortified with AA guns in 1947. In addition to the usual 88 mm which were at that time deemed the best protection against aircraft, the Bulgarian Army set up a large number of 20 mm as a defense measure against low flying aircraft. [] 50X1-HUM
- (8) Military Building: The new government of Bulgaria [Communist] constructed a large, modern, three-story brick building at this site after World War II.

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It was completed in 1947. [] it is large enough to provide quarters for an infantry regiment. 50X1-HUM

- (9) Sofia: This sector of Sofia, the southwest part of the city, was important 50X1-HUM
[] the armed forces always used it to store their armored vehicles, particularly Soviet-made tanks.

- (10) Pozhar: [Underground ammunition magazine.] The area [] 50X1-HUM
[] is intended to encompass an underground ammunition storage area.

- (11) Military Academy: Prior to Communist control, this installation was called the King Boris Military Academy. It is now [1954] called the People's Military Academy. 50X1-HUM

- (12) Military Barracks: These buildings were constructed during World War II. Several were added in 1947. By 1947 these buildings could house at least two regiments of troops.

- (13) Samokov: This city served as headquarters for a Bulgarian armored division and its facilities such as tanks, mobile artillery, etc. There are sufficient barracks to provide quarters for two regiments of soldiers. Samokov is [] 50X1-HUM
[] a strategically important segment of the total economy of Bulgaria. The largest smelter of the country was completed at Samokov in 1947. That same year one of the largest dams in Eastern Europe was also completed at Samokov. This dam also provides hydro-electricity to the smelter at Samokov. 50X1-HUM

2. Uncharted Geographical Data

- a. Pernik: [Also known as Kostenets and Dimitrovo.] The heaviest concentration of coal in Bulgaria is located at around the town of Pernik. As a matter of fact, this region supplies most of the coal consumed in Bulgaria. Considerable strip or surface mining takes place. There is some pit mining, but most of the coal is mined by the strip method. In my estimation the mines of Pernik can be considered as a critical installation. Since World War II, Bulgaria has attempted to develop her economy along industrial lines. Her chief source of coal for this venture is Pernik. There is only one means of reaching Pernik by rail, and that is via the railroad which connects it with Sofia. Coal is more than abundant in the region. Before World War II Yugoslavia, Rumania [] purchased considerable quantities of this fuel from Bulgaria. In addition to the beds of coal, Pernik is important in that it has a large power station which supplies Sofia with about one third of its electrical energy. 50X1-HUM

- b. Kazanluk: In 1947 the new military administration of Bulgaria completed an air corps school at Kazanluk. [] this is the only installation in Bulgaria which trains air corps personnel. Up to 1947, the only factory in Bulgaria which repaired both small and large ordnance was located at Kazanluk. There is also a large ammunition plant in Kazanluk. This plant, [] was the only producer of ammunition in the entire country. 50X1-HUM

- c. Shumen: This city for many years has served as one of Bulgaria's more important military centers, for the area around it is one of Bulgaria's largest military districts. Facilities around Shumen are adequate for the maintenance of at least one division of artillery or infantry troops. As a consequence, at least one division is always quartered in the area. At the military academy our instructors emphasized that strategically it was an excellent focal point from which to deploy Bulgarian troops in any direction, particularly to the port areas of the Black Sea.
- d. Plowdiv: It is generally known that the city of Plowdiv was built on seven hills. During World War II several tunnels were cut into these hills. When the war ended the tunneling continued. As a consequence, by 1947 the Communists had completed a network of inter-connecting tunnels under the city of Plowdiv.

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In order to establish effective shelters engineers engaged in developing these underground installations encountered the various problems as depicted below.



- c. **Design:** There are a number of small airbases around Flensburg which up to 1944 were used primarily for training purposes. However, the largest and most important airfield in the vicinity (strictly military) is located at Tøllushøj, 11 miles northwest of Lørdal. This airbase is entirely underground. It was constructed during the early stages of World War II.

Two or three fighter planes such as the Messerschmitt landed into the airbase at one time. The opening (aperture) to this field to approximately 100 meters (300 feet). The structure including the runway consisted of concrete. This field was never bombed during World War II.

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