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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

DATE OF **INFORMATION**

1950

SUBJECT

Transportation - Railroad regulations

HOW

2/ Aug 1950

PUBLISHED

Daily newspaper

DATE DIST.

WHERE

PUBLISHED Sofia NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE

PUBLISHED 27 Jun 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Bulgarian

REPORT NO.

CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE MATIONAL DEFRINGE I STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT SO SS, AR AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REPLEATION SI IN ANY MARMET TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-MEPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROMISITED.

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BULGARIAN MINISTRY ISSUES NEW FREIGHT REGULATIONS

The Council of Ministers has issued the following decree to provide more efficient freight operations:

- 1. The ministries engaged in shipping goods will submit to the State Planning Commission their yearly shipping plans, broken down into quarterly periods, and identifying the goods according to specifications approved by the Council of Ministers or as Miscellaneous goods. The points of shipping and destination must also be indicated.
- 2. The ministries and departments will advise the Ministry of Transportation 30 days before the beginning of each annual quarter of their forthcoming shipments, giving specific data for each month. The weight and kind of merchandise and the number of freight cars required during every month and for the entire quarter must be indicated.
- 3. On the basis of the above information, the Ministry of Transportation and the State Planning Commission will determine the volume of loading operations in advance, and will advise the shippers 25 days before the beginning of the quarter of the volume and kind of goods to be shipped every month.
- 4. In accordance with that preliminary information, the ministries will establish their final shipping schedules, separating specified and miscellaneous goods, indicating their tonnage, the average daily 24-hour loading volume, and the points of shipping and destination. These schedules must reach the Ministry of Transportation not later than 20 days before the beginning of the quarter.
- 5. The Ministry of Transportation will submit the schedules to the Council of Ministers and the State Planning Commission 2 weeks before the beginning of the quarter.
- 6. The shipping ministries will classify their goods according to kind and weight and the number of freight cars needed for each of their enterprises, and will determine monthly operation plans based on: (a) the production and

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distribution plans of the government; (b) the statements of the departmental organizations of the ministries concerning the shipment of goods produced directly, according to the plans of the ministries concerned.

- 7. The local shippers will submit to the Bulgarian State Railroad their monthly shipping plans based on the quarterly plans of the ministries and departments, indicating every railroad station separately.
- 8. The railroad administration will study the plans and, after approval, send them to the district administrations and individual railroad stations, not later than 3 days before the beginning of every month.
- 9. Any changes introduced by the government in the shipping plan will be referred by the Ministry of Transportation to the interested ministries which, in turn, will advise their departmental enterprises and organizations; whereas the Bulgarian State Railroad will inform its district administrations and the railroad stations concerned.

To eliminate freight cars running empty and to provide the most complete utilization of their loading capacity, the following regulations will be adopted:

- 1. Shippers will provide loading stations with 5-day plans based on their monthly plans stating the number of freight cars needed. They will also indicate: the dates of loading, the number of cars required on each date, the kind and volume of freight, and the destination. These statements must be turned in 3 days before the beginning of the 5-day period.
- 2. The shippers must establish the average number of cars needed daily during the 5-day periods, on the basis of the monthly plans. However, some slight deviations, not exceeding 10 percent of the monthly plan, are admissible.
- 3. Failure to establish monthly shipping plans and 5-day loading schedules will be penalized with fines to be paid by both the shippers and the Bulgarian State Railroad Administration, disciplinary measures, and criminal prosecution for obstructing plan fulfillment. The fines will be established in proportion to the advance payments.
- 4. The shippers will be exempted from fines when the loading cannot be handled because of the following circumstances: (a) Acts of God, such as fire, floods, or accidents at the enterprise which stopped production for at least 3 days; (b) suspension of loading operations caused by a train stoppage; (c) non-utilization of freight cars furnished in excess of the planned requirements, and without previous notification, approval, or request. The fine may be reduced to one-third if the shipper advises the Bulgarian Railroad Administration at least 2 days before the loading that he will not require the number of cars requested.
- 5. The Bulgarian Railroad Administration will be exempted from fines for the reasons stated under point 4 (a) or if the cars were not unloaded on time, thus delaying subsequent loading operations.
- 6. Shippers who load cars provided according to the plan, with goods produced outside of the plan, will pay a fine of 100 leva per ton, which may not be added to the price of the goods.
- All fines will be collected by the Bulgarian State Railroad and paid by the shippers according to Tariff 312.

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- 8. Application for shipment of unplanned goods may be considered only if the Bulgarian State Railroad has spare freight cars at its disposal, and provided the shipments will not obstruct the movement of planned goods.
- 9. The partial loading of freight cars is prohibited. Every customer of the Bulgarian State Railroad must strictly observe the technical rules which provide that any fraction of a ton is reckoned as a full ton. Furthermore, customers will pay 1,000 leva for every ton by which the shipment is short of a full load.
- 10. To utilize every idle car in loading operations, shippers are requested to accept any series of cars offered by the railroad. The latter will take all necessary measures to secure the goods properly and to obviate expenditures on the part of the shippers due to inadequate shipping.
- 11. The Ministry of Transportation and the shippers are directed to establish a technical procedure providing the most efficient dispatching, loading, and unloading operations. A minimum stopover time for the handling of those functions must also be established. The Ministry of Transportation and the shipping ministries will conclude agreements establishing financial responsibility for nonfulfillment of their mutual obligations.
- 12. The Ministry of Transportation and the economic ministries will establish yearly, quarterly, and monthly plans to include miscellaneous goods in through trains. The ministries concerned will conclude agreements and establish the responsibilities of both parties in case through-train plans are not fulfilled.
- 13. Transportation by train is prohibited within junction points and between points separated by a distance of less than 25 tariff kilometers, where a highway is available. Such shipments may be admitted only on a special permit of the Minister of Transportation.

The present decree becomes effective 15 days after its publication in the State Herald. The Ministry of Transportation will be in charge of controlling the fulfillment of every provision.

Vulko Chervenkov, Chairman Council of Ministers At. Voynov, Secretary General

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