CLASSIFICATION CONFIGURITAL SECURITY INFORMATION CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria; USSR

DATE OF

CD NO.

**SUBJECT** 

INFORMATION

1951

HOW

**PUBLISHED** 

Daily newspaper

Economic - Foreign trade, CEMA

DATE DIST. 22 Apr 1952

WHERE

PUBLISHED

Sofia

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

**PUBLISHED** LANGUAGE

4 Oct 1951 Bulgarian

SUPPLEMENT TO

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Otechestven Front.

## BULGARIAN-SOVIET TRADE EXPANDING

Tsv. Banchev

According to Vulko Chervenkov, Bulgaria's industrial production during 1951 will be nearly four times greater than in 1939.

By 10 September 1951, 2,734 farm workers' cooperatives had been created, incorporating 53.3 percent of the working peasants and approximately 50 per-

Fulgaria's national income in 1951 will be approximately two times greater than in 1939.

Imports of machinery and equipment from the USSR increased, as compared to 1945, 130 percent in 1946, 428 percent in 1947, 350 percent in 1948, and 685 percent in 1950.

The nationaliz cion of industry, mines, and banking created the necessary conditions for the complete absorption of all foreign trade by the state, and in 1948 foreign trade became a government monopoly. Exploitation of private capital in the field of foreign trade was abolished completely by the liquidation of 2,228 privately owned import firms and 883 export firms. This facilitated further trade with the USSR.

The Five-Year Plan projected new problems for the development of the Bulgarian economy. Structural changes in the economy were necessitated by the creation of heavy industry and mechanization of agriculture. The country's foreign trade was called upon to supply the enormous and ever-growing needs for industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment, to satisfy the requirements for metals and semifinished products which were not available in the country, and to meet shortages in textile raw materials, rubber, petroleum products, chemicals, medicines, and cellulose.

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The USSR shipped to Bulgaria on long-term credits the complete equipment for new industrial plants and electric power plants.

As compared to 1948, imports from the USSR increased 20 percent in 1949. The mutual trade agreement signed in Moscow on 18 February 1950 provided for a 10-percent increase in the exchange of products, as compared to 1949, while the agreement signed for 1951 provides for a 25-percent increase in the exchange of goods, as compared to 1950. The USSR will supply Bulgaria with additional quantities of cotton, petroleum products, ferrous and nonferrous metals. iron, chemical fertilizers, chemicals, equipment, and agricultural and other machinery, which will guarantee the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

In compliance with the provisions of this trade agreement, during the first half of 1951, 1,200 tractors, 200 self-propelled combines, 300 "Stalinets 6" combines, 110 automotive workshops, 30 oil trucks, and other agricultural machines were imported from the USSR. This made the timely harvesting of crops possible for the first time.

Bulgaria supplied the USSR with tobacco, ores, ore concentrates, canned goods, fruits, essential oils, and wood products /in 1951?7.

Bulgaria's trade with the USSR is conducted at just and uniform prices. Unequal exchange, characteristic of economic relationships between capitalist countries, is excluded. With the increase in the ruble's rate of exchange and its transfer to the gold standard, trade relations between the USSR and the People's Democracies became even stronger. Bulgaria is forever shielded from the effects of an economic crisis, from the consequences of monetary instability, and from the devaluation of mediums of exchange in the capitalist world. This condition bears directly on the improved material situation of the Bulgarian workers and on the accumulation of means essential to Bulgaria's socialist construction.

Stalin's principle of equality between large and small nations, and of fraternal cooperation between them also establishes the functions of the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance, created in 1949. The purpose of the council is to operdinate economic policies of the member countries, to organize the exchange of experience, to give technical assistance, and to provide for raw materials, supplies, and machinery.

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