

FORM 100-2

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ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE SATELLITES;
COMMUNIST EXPLOITATION, UNREST, 18 JUNE - 27 AUGUST 1953

HUNGRY DOCK WORKERS STRIKE IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Socratotika Nea, 5 Jul 53

According to Albanian refugees, the dock workers of Durres recently went on strike because of the famine situation. On the same day, many of them were arrested and sent to concentration and forced-labor camps. Two days after the strike, new workers were brought into Durres from the Cerrik concentration camp.

A few days ago, the Tirana radio announced that the Soviet freighter Voroshilov was to arrive at Durres bringing wheat to the Albanian people. When the ship arrived, however, it was loaded with war materiel for the Soviet and Albanian armies. The Albanian dock workers refused to unload it, and many of them were executed on the spot, while others were arrested.

The same refugees reported that there is a great shortage of bread in the northern Albanian provinces and that peasants go to the cities and beg for corn.

ALBANIANS FORCED TO GIVE UP CROPS -- Salonica, Makedonia, 11 Aug 53

Vienna, 10 August (special service) -- The Tirana radio stated this evening that "the collectivized peasants of the Albanian People's Republic have given the government 18 percent more wheat and other grains than expected under the plan."

In this connection, it has been noted that the "giving" of the grains was done following the direct interference of Hoxha's police. The police are reported to have deprived the peasants of their entire crop, leaving them nothing for their sustenance.

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BULGARIAN WORKERS STRIKE FOR BREAD -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 12 Jul 53

According to Yugopress, the semiofficial Yugoslav news agency, large-scale strikes have occurred recently in Bulgaria, especially in the regions near Macedonia. It was also reported that during the early part of July, 1,500 tobacco workers from the factory of the southern Bulgarian city of Pavlovo [sic; may be Plovdiv] left their work and crowded the city streets crying, "We want bread; we want work."

BULGARIAN PRODUCTS SEIZED -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul, 18 Jun 53

Edirne, 17 June -- According to reports from reliable sources, two Bulgarians -- one a civilian, the other an unarmed soldier -- have fled into Turkey. The civilian reported that 87½ percent of the [agricultural] produce of the Bulgarians has been seized and that, for this reason, all Bulgarian farmers will flee en masse to Turkey whenever an opportunity occurs.

NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES IN BULGARIA -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 19 Jul 53

According to reports from Sofia, the Bulgarian government has increased working hours and passed new measures against those who do not report for work. A tax of 200 leva has also been placed on all wages and salaries, and all childless women are to be taxed. Furthermore, all pensions were reduced 20-30 percent.

COMMUNIST MEASURES SLOW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN BULGARIA -- Athens, I Kathimerini, 27 Aug 53

London (special service) -- According to telegrams from Vienna, information has been received in that city that there is great dissatisfaction and unrest among the Bulgarian agricultural population as a result of the Bulgarian government's oppressive measures. Many peasants, members of the cooperative labor farms, are refusing to work, and, as a result, there has been a considerable decrease in the production of sugar, cotton, beets, and pistachio nuts.

SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICITY IN BULGARIAN CITIES -- Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 13 Aug 53

Vienna, 12 August (Nafen) -- According to reports from Bulgaria, private establishments in Sofia and its suburbs are permitted to use electricity only 15 hours a day. A shortage of electricity is also reported to exist in many other Bulgarian cities. Some reports state that during July, certain Bulgarian cities had no electricity at all.

STORE IN HUNGARY SET UP FOR SOVIET CITIZENS -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 26 Jun 53

A special store has been set up exclusively for Soviet citizens on Benczur street in Budapest. The prices there are much lower than at other stores. For example, a pair of shoes, which normally cost 600 forints in state central stores, is sold to the Soviets for 90 forints. Textile goods are sold at about one third the cost.

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FAMINE THREATENS RUMANIAN PEOPLE -- Istanbul, Yeni Sabah, 11 Aug 53

Vienna, 10 August (Turkish News Agency) -- Travelers arriving from Bucharest report that Rumania is on the verge of a great famine, resulting not only from poor crops but also from an increase in the amount of food shipments being made to the USSR.

On the other hand, prices of wheat, corn, and other foodstuffs are rising rapidly, and the peasants are finding it hard to obtain their own food needs. Last week, thousands of people gathered on the Constanta wharfs and shouted insults at two Soviet ships, loaded with wheat, which sailed for Odessa.

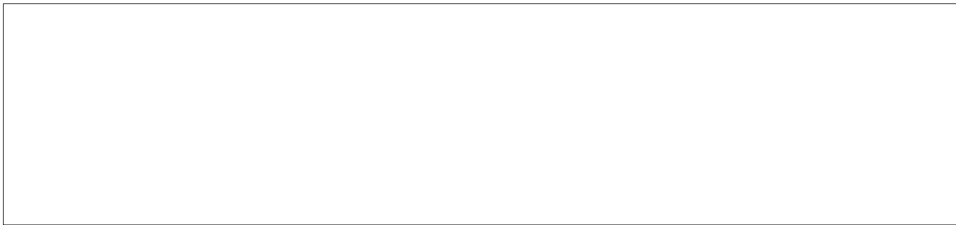
EXTRA WORK FOR RUMANIAN EMPLOYEES -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 19 Jul 53

According to reports from reliable sources, even the clerks and accountants of Sovrompetrol in Vatum [transliteration from Greek] were obliged to work after their regular working hours as posters, loaders, and unloaders. Those who refused to follow these orders were sent to forced labor camps.

RUMANIAN STATE BANK ADOPTS NEW MEASURES -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 19 Jul 53

Reliable information reports that during the monetary reforms, the State Bank of Rumania ordered all those who own immovable property abroad to sell it and deposit the corresponding foreign exchange value at the Rumanian State Bank. Those with movable property were also ordered to transfer to the Rumanian State Bank all their foreign bank deposits.

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