

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Military, Economic, and Political Information from Sliven	DATE DISTR.	30 June 1953	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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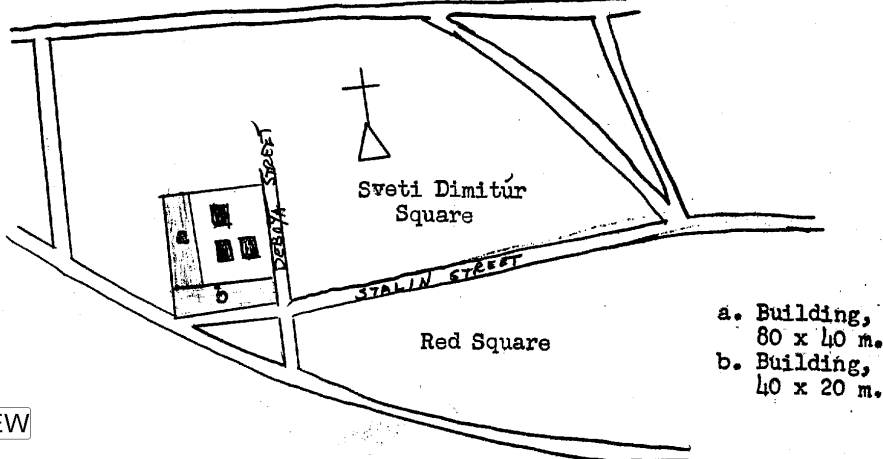
[REDACTED] 25X1

1. A sketch of the city of Sliven is enclosed herewith as an appendix, pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Military Information

2. The command of a large unit, [REDACTED] either an Army, a corps, or a division, and which bears the designation "3" or "III" is located at Sliven. [REDACTED] the unit is analagous to the commands at Sofia and Plovdiv which are identified by the numbers "1" and "2" or "I" and "II" respectively, and that it was transferred to Sliven from Shumen in 1951. This large unit occupies the same building as a divisional command and a sign on the door reads "Division Command." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the population of Sliven is increasing by the continuous influx of the families of officers. The command building faces Sveti Dimitur square; and its front courtyard forms an angle with Deboya Street, as follows:



- a. Building, 80 x 40 m.
- b. Building, 40 x 20 m.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	EV	X	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC					
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The installations consist of a 1-story building approximately 80 by 40 meters in size, a shed about 40 by 20 meters in size perpendicular to the preceding building, and other small sheds of little importance. On the side adjacent to Deboya Street is a wall approximately two meters high on top of which are iron spikes. An eagle in a cage was noted in the courtyard of the area. The entrance is guarded by two sentries armed with automatic rifles. [redacted] the commandant is a major general and that he reviews military parades in the city of Sliven. [redacted] does not know definitely what units are subordinate to this command [redacted] the divisional command and the units described below are subordinate to this command.

[redacted] a Soviet general and a Soviet colonel are attached to the command. 25X1

3. The command of the "Balkanska" Division is located at Sliven. [redacted] not 25X1  
sure whether the "3" unit mentioned above is the identifying number of this division or the designation of the unit superior to this division. The command is located in the same building described above as the command of the large unit. [redacted] 25X1
4. A mixed artillery regiment (horse-drawn and motorized) occupies the barracks of the former 6 Artillery Regiment in the southeast periphery of Sliven, between Karnobat Boulevard and the railroad line which leads to Zimnitsa. [redacted] 25X1  
this is a single regiment, but from the weapons described it is probably two distinct units, one a divisional field artillery unit and the other a corps artillery unit. The barracks are "very large" and consist of several buildings. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Armament of the unit as noted [redacted] at  
national holiday parades in which the units occupying this barracks are as follows:
  - a. Eight or nine old-type guns, unknown model, having the following characteristics: Wooden wheels with metal rims about 1.40 meters in diameter, limbers, barrel approximately 2.50 meters long without brake, caliber 100-120 mm., drawn by three teams of horses;
  - b. Six heavy howitzers, mounted on rubber tires, barrel length 2.50-3.00 meters, caliber 200-250 mm., drawn by tractors, unknown type of Soviet production; and
  - c. Unknown number of guns drawn by auto vehicles [redacted] 25X1
5. An unidentified tank unit ([redacted] a "motorized and armored unit") occupies barracks in the southwest periphery of Sliven, adjacent to the barracks of the former 6 Artillery Regiment described above. The barracks were constructed after World War II in a level meadow known as "Krastavo Pole." It is probable that a tank unit and a motor vehicle center unit both occupy the barracks, because a training and instruction field for armored units is located approximately six kilometers southeast of the city. The barracks consist of a number of masonry 25X1  
sheds and is separated from Karnobat Boulevard by a wooded zone [redacted]  
[redacted] The area is enclosed by a fence. [redacted]  
[redacted] The officers wear black shoulder boards. [redacted] Captain Daylan Dimitrov is an adjutant of a unit at the barracks.
6. An unidentified infantry regiment occupies the barracks of the former 11 Infantry Regiment in Sliven, located between the Gradinski quarter and the Novo Selo suburb, and between the civilian hospital and the Novo Selo River. The enclosing wall on the west side runs along the river bank. The barracks consist of seven or eight 1- and 2-story buildings. The regimental strength is approximately 2,000 25X1  
men. [redacted]

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7. An unidentified Trudovak unit occupies the old barracks which were occupied by the 3 Trudovak Division prior to World War II. The barracks consist of two 1-story buildings, dimensions unknown, one of which is an L-shaped construction. The area is enclosed by a metal fence. The Trudovaks of this unit are engaged in various work projects in the area and were constructing a railroad branch south of Sliven as of March 1953. This unit also takes part in the parades at Sliven.
8. The military hospital of Sliven is a new construction, built after World War II, and is located in an isolated zone in front of the barracks of the former 11 Infantry Regiment. It consists of a single 2-story building approximately 100 by 45 meters in size. Its director is an unidentified lieutenant colonel (doctor).
9. A training and instruction camp for armored units, established in 1945-1946 and commonly known as "Lager" (camp), is located approximately six kilometers southeast of Sliven and about 500 meters north of the railroad which leads to Zimnitsa. The field is in the middle of a wooded zone known as Debela Koriya. The camp has several permanent installations used as troop lodgings and vehicle sheds. [redacted] 25X1
10. A summer camp for infantry troops, in existence prior to World War II and commonly known as "Lager", is located approximately six kilometers south-southwest of Sliven, approximately two kilometers east of the rail line to Tvurditsa. It is located in a wooded zone in the vicinity of Rechitsa. [redacted] the camp is used for training and instructing infantry troops who are recalled for temporary reserve service for a period of instruction. 25X1
11. Sliven has no firing range.
12. A military airport is located in the southeast periphery of Sliven, between Karnobat Boulevard and the rail line to Zimnitsa. It has a natural grass surface and is not equipped with a runway. [redacted] a small number of single-engine planes are used for pilot training [redacted] Air Force officers are seen only rarely in the city. 25X1

Economic Information

13. In serving the town of Sliven, the Zimnitsa-Vetren rail line has to make a turn of approximately 100°. In order to eliminate the loss of time and traffic bottlenecks, a new railroad trunk is being constructed about two kilometers south of Sliven to connect directly with the Zimnitsa and Vetren lines. This trunk will be approximately five or six kilometers long and will cross the Asenovitsa and Novo Selo Rivers. It will have its own railroad station. As of March 1953, the entire line had been laid and the bridge over the Asenovitsa River was under construction. The work is being carried out by the Trudovak units stationed in Sliven.
14. The MTS (Mashino Traktorno Stantsiya; Machine Tractor Station) which serves the Sliven area is located in the southwest periphery of the city, in the vicinity of the Elprom Factory. It is a workshop which maintains and makes light repairs on machinery. The station is equipped with eight or 10 tractors and various agricultural tools and machinery.
15. The Pobeda (Victory) Iron Works is an old factory formerly belonging to a certain Sahakiom. After the war the plant was enlarged and the machinery was modernized. It is located on the industrial quarter of Sliven, southeast of the railroad station. The factory consists of one shed about 60 by 20 meters in size which is used as a laboratory, and one small building which houses the directorate and the offices; [redacted] The plant employs approximately 250 workers in two shifts per day. Prior to World War II, production consisted of spare parts for industrial machinery, but at present it consists of machine parts and other unknown industrial machinery.

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25X1

16. The city of Sliven is an important textile center. [redacted] approximately 5,000 workers are employed in the various textile factories in the city. The four factories described in paragraphs 17-20 are enclosed by a wall and have guards. 25X1
17. The DIP (Durzhavno Industrialno Predpriatie; State Industrial Enterprise), a wool textile factory, is the former property of Stefanov (fnu). It is located approximately five kilometers northwest of the city, on Asenovitsa Street which leads to the Byala area. The plant employs approximately 600 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces woolen yarn and finished woolen articles.
18. A textile factory formerly known as the Kalov Factory is located approximately 300 meters north of the preceding factory. It employs 300-400 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces woolen yarn and finished woolen cloth.
19. The Georgi Dimitrov Textile Combine, formerly the property of Mikhailov Andrenov, is located approximately 400 meters north of the preceding textile factory. It occupies an area approximately 400 by 120 meters in size, employs approximately 800 workers in two or three 8-hour shifts per day depending upon the exigencies of work, and produces woolen yarn and finished woolen cloth. It is equipped with 120-150 looms, most of which are modern.
20. An abandoned textile factory, completely destroyed by fire in 1946-1947, is located north of the preceding factory.
21. The Merino Textile Factory, the property of Isidoro Alkalay before nationalization, is located in the industrial quarter of Sliven. It formerly was a cotton mill and has been transformed to produce cotton thread and cloth. The plant consists of two sheds, the larger of which is approximately 100 by 60 meters in size. It employs approximately 300 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces cotton thread and finished cotton cloth.
22. The IX September Textile Factory, formerly the Nedev Saraivanov Factory, is located in the industrial quarter of Sliven to the southeast of the railroad station. It employs approximately 600 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces finished cloth of wool and cotton.
23. The cotton mill formerly known as the Tenio Petkov Mill is located in the industrial quarter of Sliven. It is a small establishment, consists of a shed approximately 70 by 30 meters in size, and employs 100-150 workers in two shifts per day.
24. The woolen mill formerly known as the Khristo Raykov Mill is located approximately three kilometers north of Sliven outside of Novo Selo suburb. It employs about 200 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces woolen yarn. The plant consists of two sheds, each approximately 80 by 30 meters in size.
25. The cotton mill formerly the property of Tenio Petkov (see paragraph 23 above) is located north of the preceding factory. It employs 100-120 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces cotton thread. The plant consists of two sheds, each approximately 60 by 30 meters in size.
26. The DIP 8 March, which produces men's and women's hosiery, is located in the western periphery of Sliven. It was organized in 1942-1943 and includes as members all the small business concerns and private plants in the city and employs approximately 400 workers in two shifts per day. It has a single 1-story building approximately 100 by 40 meters in size.
27. The DIP Vasil Kolarov, formerly the Belfa Factory, is located in the western periphery of Sliven in the vicinity of the DIP 8 March. It employs approximately 400 workers in two 8-hour shifts per day and produces window glass, bottles,

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25X1

- glasses, and other household articles of glass. Until 1950 it also produced glass parts for electric light bulbs, but this was discontinued when the Elprom Factory began operations. The factory consists of two 1-story buildings each approximately 80 by 25 meters in size and one masonry shed about 60 by 15 meters in size.
28. The Zavod Elprom (State organization concerned with the production and sale of electric items in Bulgaria) in Sliven produces electric light bulbs. It is a new building which was completed in 1950 and [redacted] it is the only plant of its type in Bulgaria. The factory is located in the southwest periphery of the city, on the west side of the road to Binkos. Work is done in two 8-hour shifts per day. [redacted] The factory went into operation in 1951 and produces complete electric light bulbs for various voltages, which bear the trade mark "Elprom." The factory consists of a 1-story building approximately 180 by 25 meters in size which houses the principal factory department and two 1-story buildings about 40 by 15 meters in size which house the various assembly departments. The plant occupies a large area approximately 100 meters square. The major part of the plant area, however, is used for fruit and vegetable gardens. 25X1
29. The Kozarska Factory, formerly the Raphael Krispin and Sons Factory, is a small tannery. It employs approximately 60 workers and produces leather for soles and hides for vamps. 25X1
30. A small sawmill is located in the industrial quarter of Sliven. It uses lumber from the Balkan Mountain chain located to the north of the city.
31. Sliven has no power plant and receives its electric energy from Yambol and Dimitrograd.
32. The Durzhavna Bolnitsa (State Hospital), an old hospital, is located in the north-eastern periphery of Sliven in front of the barracks of the former 11 Infantry Regiment. It has approximately 100 beds and consists of a square building with a corridor in the middle. One wing is approximately 60 meters long.
33. A new civilian hospital is under construction because the present facilities are not adequate to meet the needs of Sliven and its suburbs. The new building is in the middle of the city in front of the railroad station. Work was begun in 1951 and is scheduled for completion in 1954.
34. Common medicines are not always available in Sliven. Frequently the pharmacies do not have a supply of medicines, and antibiotics are administered only in the hospitals or upon authorization of the city health officer. Workers receive free medical aid, but authorization for surgery may be expected only in far-advanced cases because of bureaucratic slowness. [redacted] 25X1

Political Information

35. [redacted] the malcontent of the people is constantly increasing, not generated in particular by the Communist dictatorship, but by the difficult living conditions. Salaries are low and the buying power of wage-earners is sufficient only for the necessities of life. In meeting friends and acquaintances the residents of Sliven are very cautious, but after a few words they understand each other's feelings, so that very soon each gives out his private opinions stating openly his aversion to the regime. The tolerance of such a precarious situation is determined by the impossibility of [redacted] 25X1

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undertaking violent action against the present regime. Cases of open rebellion are sporadic and of short duration. In 1951, there were two trials against peasants who refused to send their high agricultural quotas to the State stockpiles and openly rebelled against the Militia personnel who were ordered to search the houses and arrest the peasants. During the trial, two of the peasants were condemned to death, but [redacted] not know whether the sentences were carried out. Each demand for economic betterment is considered a bourgeois-capitalistic reaction. At a textile factory meeting, the chief technician Dimitur Randev [redacted] requested that the factory workers be given a percentage of the cloth produced as an annual bonus for their own use as was done prior to World War II. Randev concluded his request with the statement: "In spite of the fact that there was a fascist regime in Bulgaria prior to the war, this concession was granted." For this request, Randev was fired from his position as chief technician and forced to work as a common laborer. Faced with this sort of injustice, the population strongly hopes that the Western world will soon intervene in order that they may regain their liberty. The death of Stalin greatly increased this hope.

36. [redacted] the following political prisoners at Belene forced labor camp: 25X1

- a. Georgi Topalov, lawyer, from Sliven, former member of the Agrarian Party; his wife works as a laundress in Sliven; and
- b. Racho Zanev, former member of the Communist Party in Sliven and former shock-worker; arrested in 1951 for political deviationism.

L E G E N D to APPENDIX

1. Command of a large unit and a division.
2. Barracks of Trudovak units.
3. Barracks for the former 6 Infantry Regiment.
4. New barracks occupied by an armored unit and an auto center unit.
5. Barracks of the former 11 Infantry Regiment.
6. Airport.
7. Military hospital.
8. Old civilian hospital.
- 8a. New civilian hospital under construction.
9. Railroad trunk under construction.
10. Bridge under construction.
- 10a. Site of planned bridge.
- 11a. DIP Sebi Dimitrov, textile factory.
- 11b. Textile factory, formerly Kalov Factory.
- 11c. Georgi Dimitrov Textile Combine.
- 11d. Abandoned textile factory, destroyed by fire.
12. IX September Textile Factory.
13. Merino Textile Factory.
14. Pobeda Metal Works Factory.
15. Cotton mill, formerly Tenio Petkov Mill.
16. Kozarska Fabrika, a tannery.
17. Sawmill.
18. Wool mill, formerly Khristo Raykov Mill.
19. Cotton mill, formerly Tenio Petkov Mill.
20. DIP 8 March, hosiery factory.
21. DIP Vasil Kolarov glass factory, formerly Belfa Factory.
22. Zavod Elprom, electric light factory.
23. MTS (Mashino Traktorno Stantsiya; Machine Tractor Station).
24. Training camp for infantry troops.
25. Training camp for armored unit troops.

Assemble Sketch:

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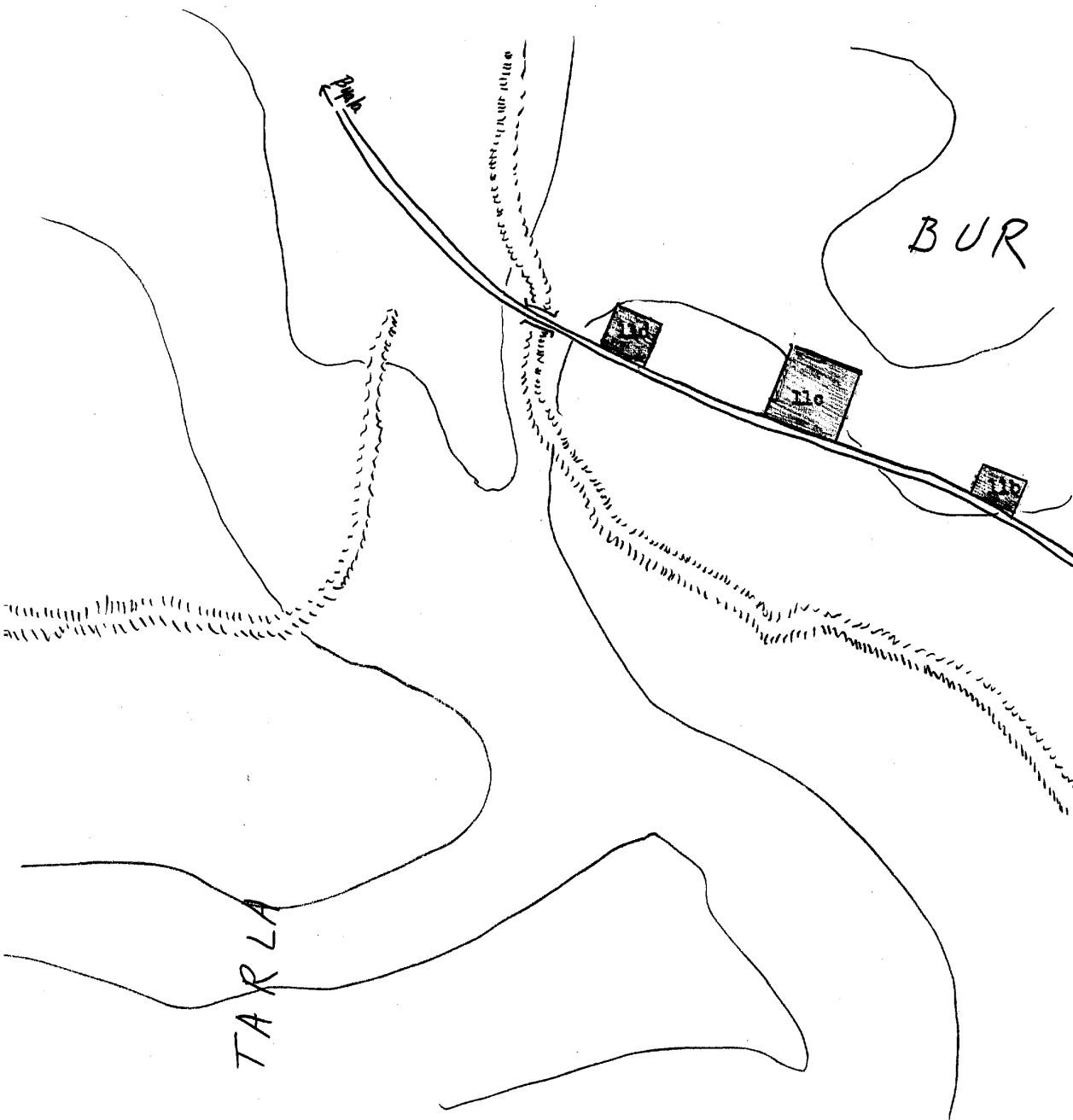
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The City of Sliven - March 1953



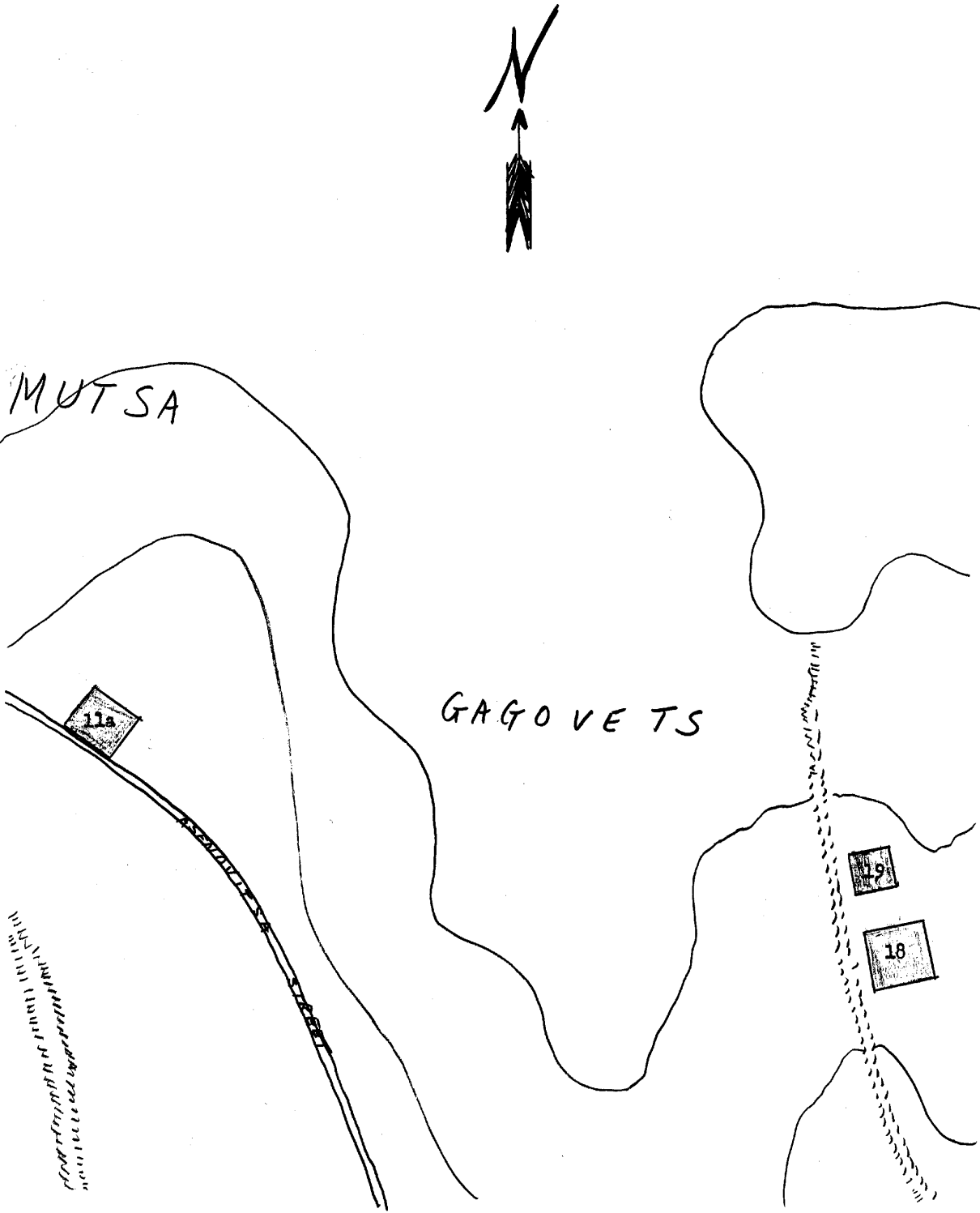
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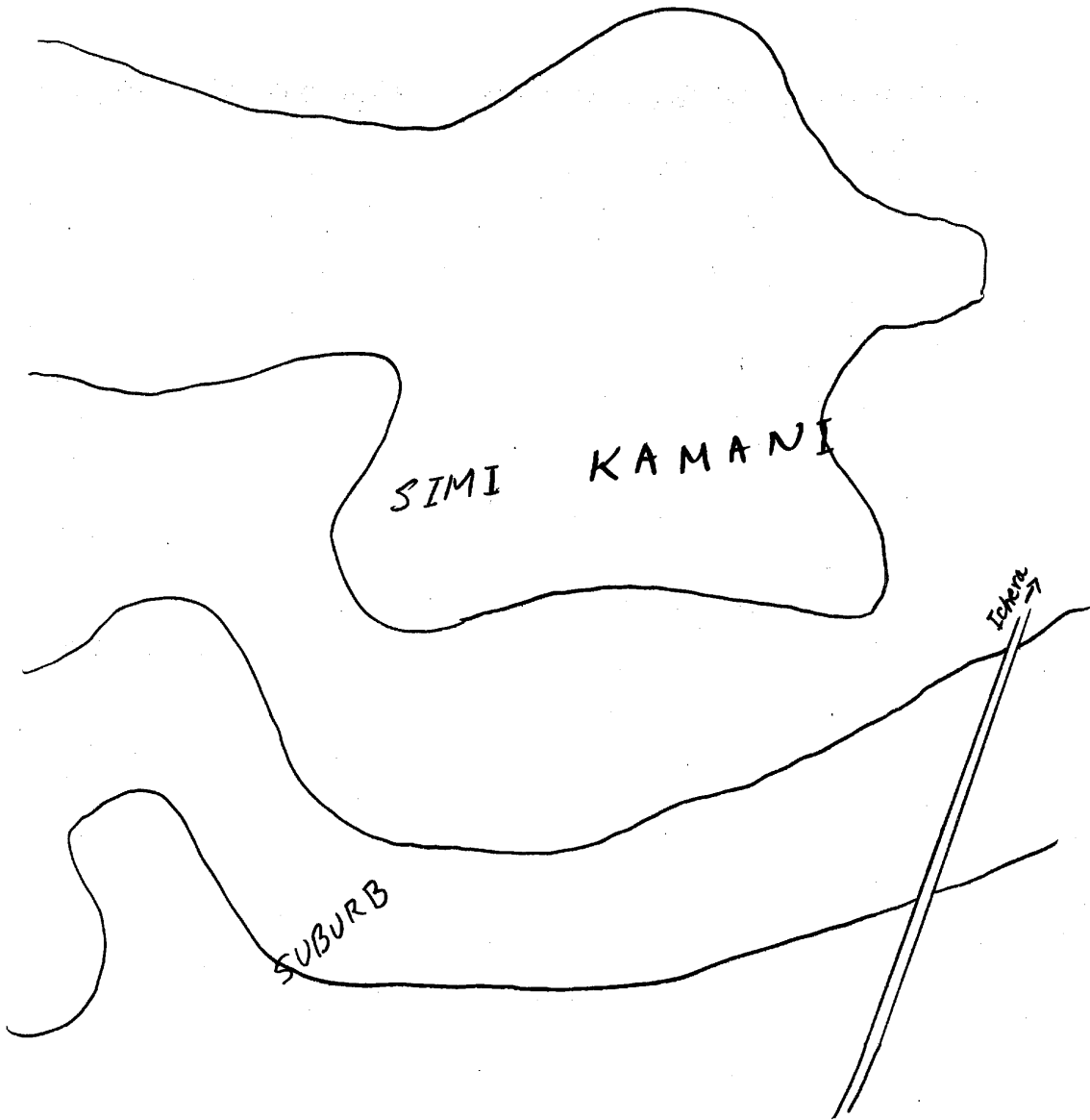
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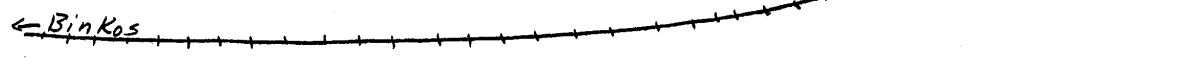
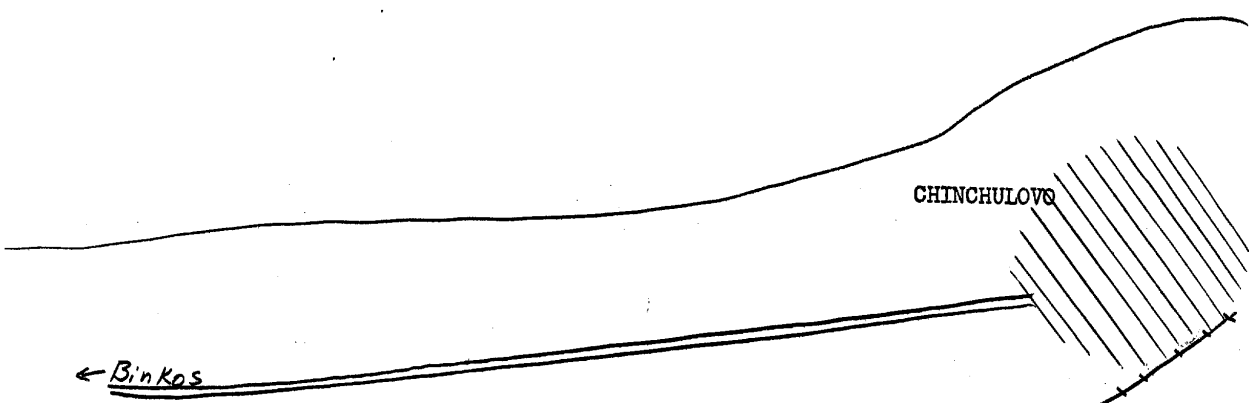
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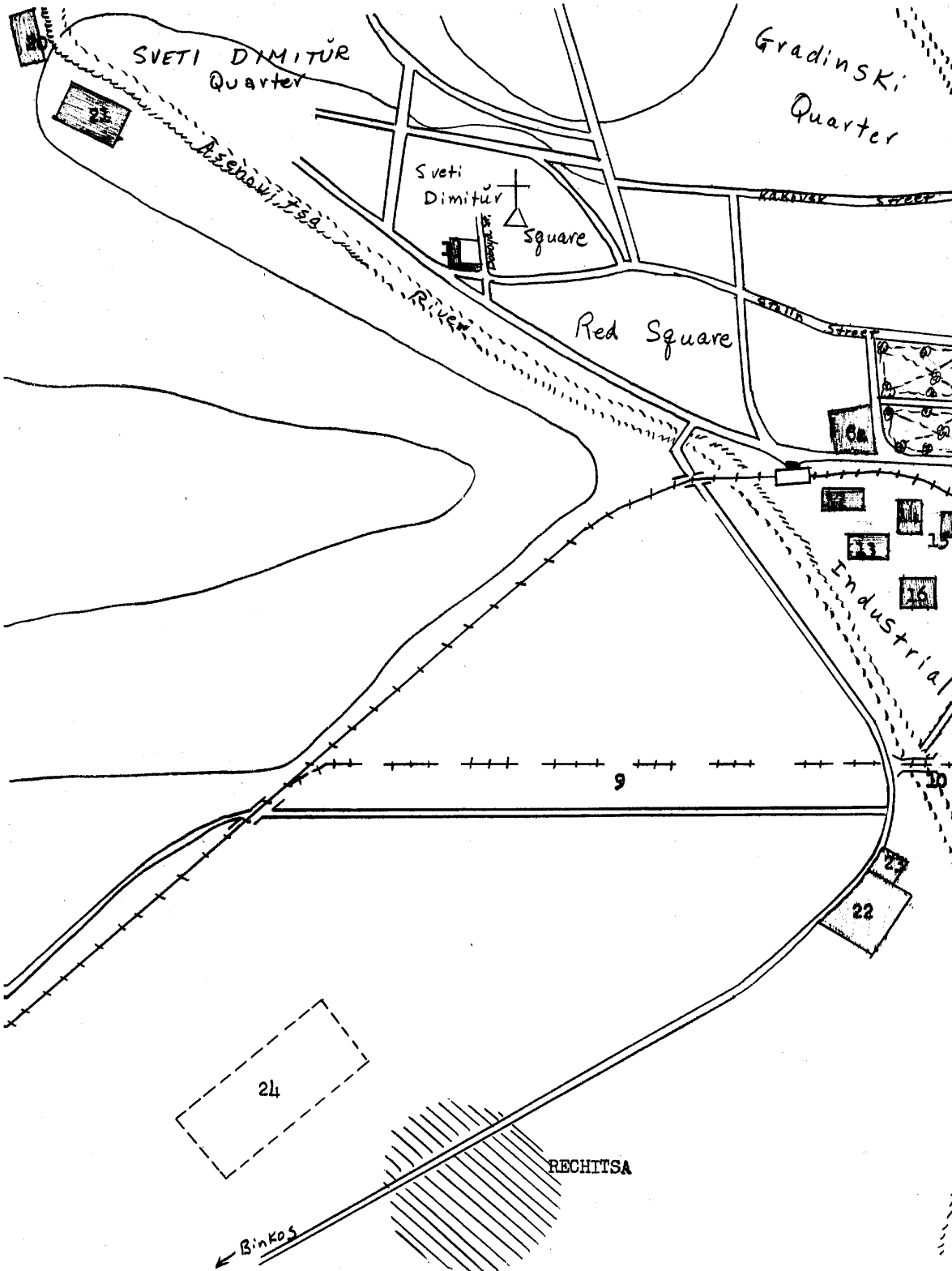
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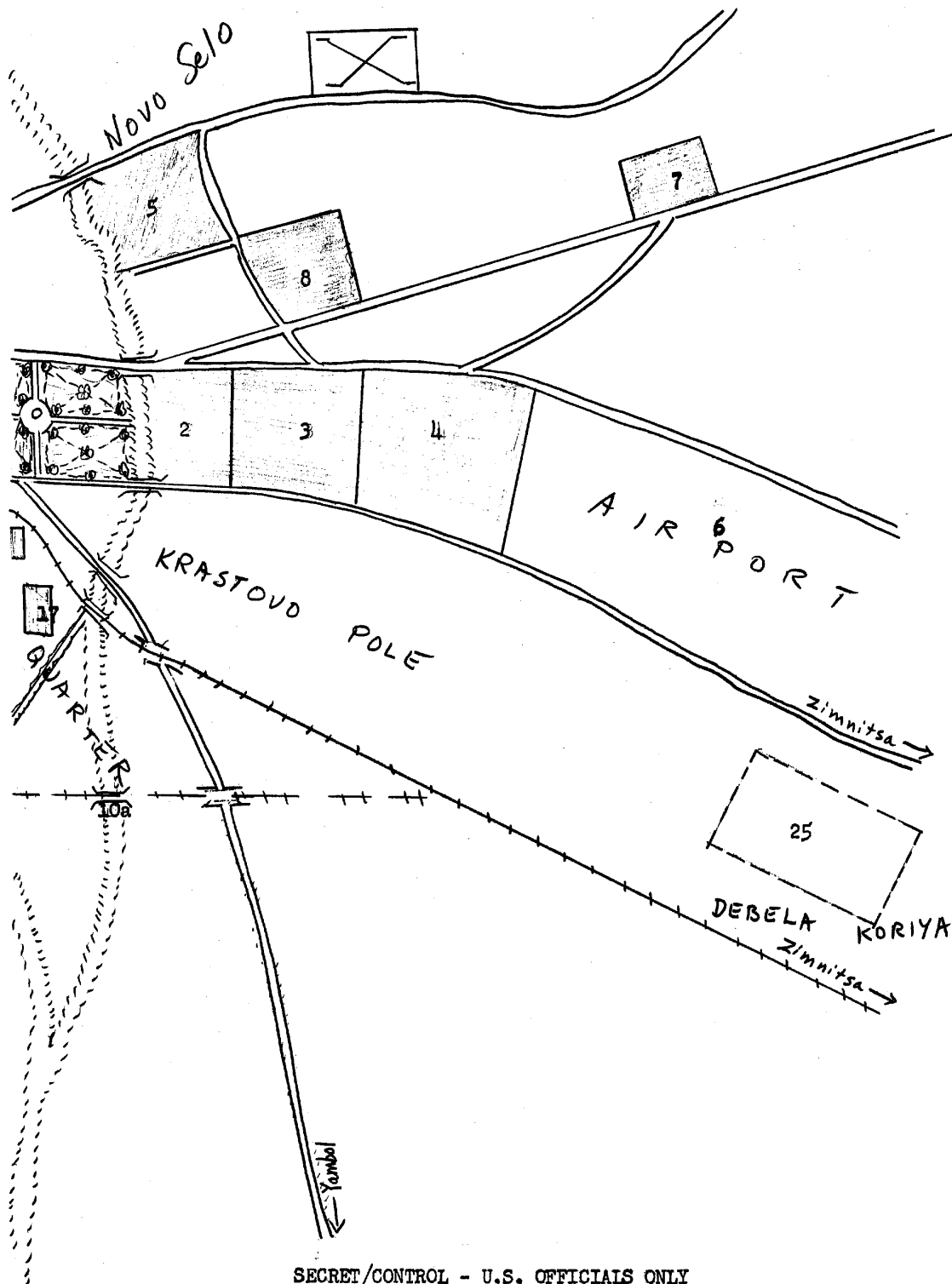
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