

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Military Bases in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	50X1-HUM ²⁸ September 1953
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1. Since 1952, the Soviets have started constructing several military bases in Bulgaria, including naval bases located along the Black Sea coast and airfields. This construction work, part of which has been completed, is proceeding at a rapid pace, under the direction of Soviet technicians and with the use of Bulgarian laborers.
2. In addition to the construction work mentioned above, existing installations are being modernized and enlarged, as follows:
 - a. At Plovdiv, eight kilometers south of the city, there is an airfield which has been recently modernized; it is equipped with:
 - (1) Six masonry hangars, with eternit¹ roofs, 40 x 20 meters in size;
 - (2) Day and night landing facilities;
 - (3) Four underground fuel reservoirs; and
 - (4) Various offices and services housed in two 2-story buildings.

The airfield is connected to the city by means of an asphalt road; several Soviet fighters were observed at this field;
 - b. Another field is located two kilometers south of the Plovdiv airfield and is used for training student pilots; it has no installations and is 1,500 x 800 meters in size;
 - c. An area for parking Soviet aircraft is located on the southern outskirts of Plovdiv and includes two workshops and four warehouses of aeronautical materiel; airplane engines arriving from the Soviet Union are overhauled here; personnel assigned to this base consist entirely of Soviets; this area is connected to the Plovdiv freight yard by means of a private branch line;

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- d. At Yambol, three kilometers west of the city, there is an airfield which was recently renovated; it includes:

- (1) Five masonry hangars, with eternit roofs, each 60 x 30 meters in size;
- (2) Three 1-story buildings occupied by the airfield command and various offices;
- (3) Three underground fuel reservoirs.

This field is 1,600 x 800 meters in size; an unidentified number of Soviet fighters were observed here;

- e. At Yambol-Botevo, ten kilometers south of Yambol, a new airfield is being built; two hangars under construction and several buildings were observed; 20 wooden barracks were built for the troops, the airfield command, and for offices; this airfield, 1,400 x 600 meters in size, is used exclusively by the Bulgarian Air Force; fuel is at present kept in barrels under wooden sheds;
- f. At Ruse, five kilometers west of the city, a new airfield is being constructed; at present six hangars and four buildings are being built, and the ground is being levelled; all the various Bulgarian Air Force schools will be located at field, which is approximately 2,000 meters in length; and
- g. At Balchik there is a hydroplane base where the 25 Torpedo Squadron is now stationed.

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1. Comment: Eternit is described as an asbestos fibre mixed with Portland cement.

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