CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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618999SERVICE UNICERCRICAL 25X1 COUNTRY Rumania REPORT 23 April 1954 General Conditions in Bucharest **SUBJECT** DATE DISTR. NO. OF PAGES DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. 25X1 PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES This is UNEVALUATED Information THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE. THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE) 25X1

- 1. With the beginning of warmer weather and a thaw, the morale of the Rumanian people has visibly improved. It had obviously sunk to a very low ebb when the second blizzard hit Bucharest on 17 February 1954, scarcely two weeks after the first one. People were walking around in a daze, spending long hours searching for food and waiting in line to get their Aragaz containers filled, if they could get to the dispensing stations. Snow clearing "volunteers" were quickly swung into action and in just about a week the main boulevards were cleared. It was reported in Bucharest that the town of Giurgiu was flooded and had to be evacuated.
- 2. Food is still in extremely short supply. Practically all that is available in the State stores are dried herrings at 18 lei a kilo and jams at 7 lei a jar. The peasants exploited the food shortage to the fullest, coming into the city and selling onions at 7 lei a kilo and chickens at 80 lei each. The average worker in Bucharest has been subsisting entirely on bread and sauer-kraut pickled at home for the past month.
- 3. The transportation system of trams and buses in Bucharest, which was inadequate before the start of the blizzards, is now only functioning at about a third of its former inefficient level even though the lines have been cleared.

4.	the Rumanian	25 X 1
	Government was making a serious effort to improve the food situation through	
	trade agreements. the reason for this was that factory production	
	was suffering as a result of the workers' inadequate diet.	25X1
	the main	

problem and worry of the Rumanian Government was the Rumanian peasant and how to make him produce.

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