

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Border Guard Patrols and "Sekret" Near Svilengrad 2. Border Line and Mine Fields in the Svilengrad Area	DATE DISTR.	9 August 1954
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		REFERENCES	

641235

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] soldiers of the "Gebranska Zastava" (Svilengrad) constantly patrol along the dirt road starting in the southern end of the "Gebran" Quarter, Svilengrad, continuing between the "Zastava" and the Maritsa River and down to the right bank of the river, about 4-5 meters from it. After the patrol has gone along this road for a distance of about two kilometers, it cuts off on a small path to the right (southwest) of the road, and a little after that, turns due south. This path runs by a spring known by the residents as "Nenkin Milehovo Spring," turns east around the "Didan Baba" area (N 41-44, E 26-11) and continues in a southerly direction until it runs into the foot-path which parallels the border line and is about 50 meters from the road.
2. The whole route runs through a level cultivated area and partly through mulberry and fruit orchards and the approaches to the border itself are for the most part through the mulberry orchards.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X", Field Distribution by "#".)

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3. In the eastern angle formed by the above-mentioned route and the path paralleling the border line (N 41-45, E 26-12) are located thick mulberry orchards, covering an area of about 4-5 decares (untended for a long time), overgrown with tall grass. In this orchard, about 50 meters east of the road on which the guards patrol and about 100 meters from the border line, along the above-mentioned path, is concealed a fixed Border Guard "Sekret" (ambush).

4. [redacted] at 11:00-11:30 a.m. the change of the morning guard, probably the second shift. [redacted] inspection of the guard by an officer (probably was the zastava commander) accompanied by a soldier. 1

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5. The Border Guard patrol consisted of three Border Guards, two armed with sub-machine guns. Once it was concealed in the mulberry orchard, the patrol could not be seen.

6. [redacted] 25X1

7. [redacted] border line from Kapitan Andreevo village (N 41-43, E 26-19), Svilengrad Okoliya, to Mezek village (N 41-44, E 26-05), Svilengrad Okoliya, observed in the fall of 1949: 25X1

a. From Kapitan Andreevo village, Svilengrad Okoliya, as far as the large bend of the Maritsa River (N 41-45, E 26-13), the border line is the Maritsa River itself; [redacted] on the Bulgarian shore there has been constructed no kind of breastworks or technical equipment aimed at making access more difficult or at signaling the arrival from any direction of trespassers of any type; 25X1

b. From N 41-44, E 26-13 to the point where the railroad line crosses the border line (N 41-44, E 26-10) is a barren area about 50 meters deep; the total length along the border line has mainly mulberry thickets and other trees; along with the trees, brush has been piled up along the Bulgarian side in this section, thus forming a sort of fence of branches and trees about two meters high which, however, appears to have been done some time ago; there is no barbed wire or plowed strip in this section of the border line [redacted] 25X1
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c. From the place where the rail line crosses the border (N 41-44, E 26-10) to N 41-42, E 26-06 (a point located south of Mezek village (N 41-44, E 26-05), Svilengrad Okoliya), the border line is formed entirely by a small river (name unknown); for the whole length along this stretch on the Bulgarian side border surveillance posts were constructed in November 1949; first of all strips about 50 meters deep were cleared in the wooded areas through which the border line runs; after, a strip was plowed, located about five meters from the Bulgarian bank of the small river and extending about 10 meters; after this, holes were excavated; on the inside edge (toward Bulgaria) and along the whole length (from the railroad line to Mezek) a barbed wire fence was constructed in 1949-1950; the fence consists of one central row of posts each about two meters high set at intervals of three meters; on the two sides of this row and about 1.5 meters in each direction between every two large posts, were set two additional rows

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of smaller posts about 50 centimeters above the ground; this then forms a barbed wire entanglement about three meters wide and a maximum of about two meters high.

8.



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Mine Fields

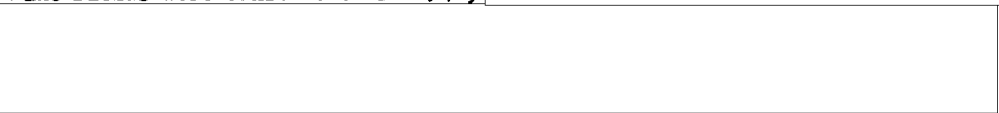
9.

[redacted] mine fields were placed between "Gebran" Quarter of Svilenograd and the railroad line, at the point near the border line. These mine fields were constructed in 1948, [redacted]

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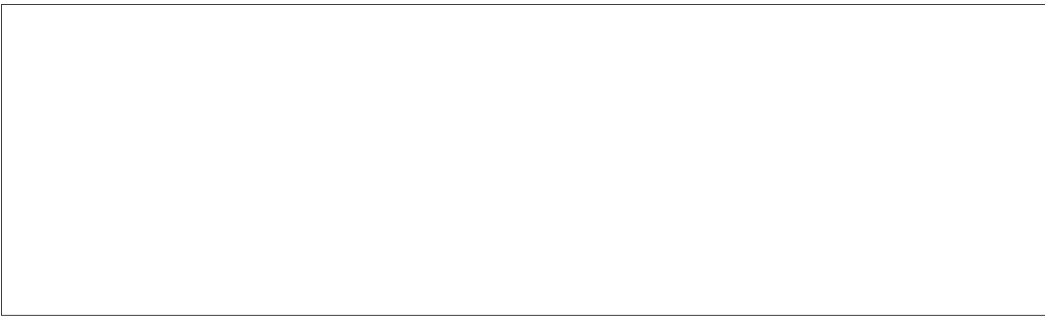
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- 10. The mine fields are located in the meadows between the railroad line and the "Gebran" Quarter of Svilenograd or, more exactly, envelop the road itself and the place where it borders (on the right and left) the first part of "Gebran" Quarter and run right up to the railroad bridge, located at the point where the railroad line crosses the border, as well as along the total length of this road, after which they run southwest from "Gebran" Quarter gardens and through the meadows. From there the mine fields extend to the above-mentioned railroad bridge and have a length along the road of about 1.5 kilometers and go southeast from the road in the swamp area. The mine field is about 25 meters in depth, that is, about 10 meters deep on each side of the road.
- 11. This is not the only mine field, but there are several similar ones along the above-mentioned road, with varying distances between them. These are fenced in by a low barbed wire fence (one strand) which at the beginning (and probably at the end) of every one is posted with little signs "dangerous to life" or "mine fields."
- 12. The mines are probably infantry type, since the villagers say they will blow up even if a dog walks over them. In the summer of 1949 there was one casualty, when a resident of Novo Selo, Svilenograd Okoliya, had a leg blown off.

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