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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Highway System	DATE DISTR.	13 September 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

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

1. The orology of Bulgaria is characterized principally by a mountainous network situated northwest of Sofia which separates into three main chains:
 - a. The Balkan (or Stara Planina) Mountains extending to the east;
 - b. The Rodopi Mountains extending southeast; and
 - c. The Rila and Pirin Mountains which extend towards the south.
2. The highway system is governed by the general layout of these mountains, and is formed as follows:

- a. By three arteries extending west to east from Sofia, and crossing the entire length of the country. The following roads are included:

(1) Sofia - Ikhtiman - Kostenets - Plovdiv - Khaskovo - Kharmanli - Svilengrad - to the Turkish border.

This road, proceeding in a northwest direction towards the Yugoslav border, connects Sofia with Slivnitsa and Dragoman and constitutes, in its entirety, the Bulgarian part of the international road;

(2) Sofia - Pirdop - Levskigrad (formerly Karlovo) - Kazanluk - Sliven - Aitos - Burgas;

(3) Sofia - Botevgrad - Lovech - Turnovo - Omortag - Kolarovgrad (formerly Shumen) - Stalin.

- b. By two arteries which run from north to south, cross the roads described above, and bisect the country as follows:

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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- (1) Lom - Mikhaylovgrad - Sofia - Stanke Dimitrov (formerly Dupnitsa) - Blagoevgrad - Simitli - Kulata - to the Greek border.
- (2) Ruse - Byala - Turnovo - Gabrovo - Kazanluk - Stara Zagora - Khaskovo - Kurdzhali - to the Greek border.
3. The highways mentioned above are first class roads with an average width of six meters; from these, branch the second class roads with an average width of 3.5 - 5 meters, which join the main cities of Bulgaria.
4. In order to gain a better picture of the elevations which the various roads reach, the following cities are listed below with their height above sea level:

Ruse	153 meters
Lom	45 meters
Pleven	125 meters
Gabrovo	375 meters
Sofia	550 meters
Kazanluk	372 meters
Stara Zagora	234 meters
Samokov	950 meters
Plodiv	160 meters
Khaskovo	195 meters
Chepelare	1105 meters

Bulgarian Roads by Type and by Total Length

- a. First Class Roads about 2,221 kilometers;
- b. Second Class Roads about 2,488 kilometers;
- c. Third Class Roads about 4,517 kilometers; and
- d. Fourth Class Roads about 1,571 kilometers

Total 10,797 kilometers

Roads of Secondary Importance about 4,500 kilometers

Total 15,297 kilometers

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