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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT

25X1

SUBJECT

DATE DISTR. 10 July 1957

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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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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I. Military

1.

4.

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20-507. At the Buzau Airfield a great number of Soviet jet aircraft, both on the ground and in the air, of a type unknown

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these planes were a new type that

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required a much shorter landing strip than any other jet.

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large number of Soviet military trains in and near the train station and Soviet personnel on the streets.

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the Municipal Committee

had to procure quarters for 20,000 additional Soviet troops who were to be stationed at Braila.

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there were to be 200,000 additional Soviet troops stationed in the Braila-Buzau-Focsani (N 45-42, E 27-12) area with 20,000 of them to be stationed in Braila.

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great many Soviet troop trains and flat cars loaded with S-60 tanks, artillery weapons, and vehicles. similar trains between Lacul Sarat (N 45-13, E 27-52) and Braila.

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in a wooded area on the south-southwest side of Braila an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Soviet military personnel and an unknown number of S-60 tanks and artillery weapons. Many of these personnel were of Mechanized Infantry units. These military personnel appeared to be seasoned troops.

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a new Soviet S-60 tank.

the S-60 tank was 7.05 meters long, 2.65 meters wide, and weighed 60 tons. From personal observation, the tank had shielded tracks and the muzzle opening was approximately 12 to 14 centimeters in diameter. No further information was available.

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11.

[redacted] in December 1956 and January 1957 [redacted]
Soviet military personnel unloading unidentified equipment which was in very long boxes and appeared to be very heavy as the Soviet personnel were using heavy cranes for the unloading. [redacted] the boxes containing this equipment were covered with canvas [redacted] it was very unusual for Soviet military personnel to unload trains as this was a job usually delegated to Rumanian civilian laborers. [redacted] this unidentified equipment was stored on the ground about 10 kilometers from the Soviet airfield near Timisoara (N 45-47, E 21-13).

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19.

Soviet radar station on Gurga Hill near the town of Breaza (N 47-21, E 24-04) [redacted] it had a parabolic antenna. another radar station on the Costila mountain range near Busteni (N 45-24, E 25-32) [redacted] believed to be the headquarters of the Breaza station.

II: Civilian

1.

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People in rural districts had to do a certain amount of labor for the State, so-called "voluntary" labor, but in reality, it was forced (corvee). Villagers were obliged to donate four weeks per year. Those who had horse carts or trucks had to lend the vehicles to the State for ten days annually. However, in most cases the State did not return them to the owners within this period but kept them for an indefinite time and when they were finally returned, they were in a state of such disrepair that they could no longer be used. In this manner Socialist policy eliminated private ownership of vehicles. [redacted] the Ministry of Defense planned to disband labor units in September 1957.

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A registration of technicians, doctors, engineers, and other technical personnel was held at the beginning of 1956 and again at the end of the year in connection with a population census. In both cases special gray cards were filled out for technical and professional personnel. In government enterprises and institutions, this double registration was taken care of by the personnel or cadres offices. Radio amateurs had to be registered and had to validate their registration at the end of each month.

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[redacted] during April and May 1957 there had been a sudden increase in arrests by the Security Forces, mostly of the old bourgeoisie who had been arrested previously because of their social status. There were no new restrictions on travel. On the contrary, travel was freer of restrictions than it had been formerly. There had been no increase in document checks.

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3. There were no shortages of essential goods, generally speaking, but in May 1957 it became increasingly difficult to find foodstuffs in Bucharest, especially bread and meat, because of stockpiling in preparation for the World Youth Congress to be held in Moscow in July 1957 and also, because of the increase of Soviet troops, as described in Section I, 4 above. Flour, bread, butter, and meat were more easily obtainable in larger cities, such as Bucharest, Iasi, Brasov, and Timisoara, than in rural areas. Occasionally, it was difficult to get bread and people were then asked to show their identity papers in order to obtain it. Such shortages were caused by the fact that persons in rural communities in the vicinity of large cities stormed city stores for bread which was cheaper there than in their own communities. Some peasants used to buy it by the sack and feed it to their live stock because it was cheaper than fodder. There were no shortages of drugs, clothing, sewing machines, radios, watches, etc., except that they were prohibitive in price although prices had been reduced on such items. There were more goods recently than there had been six months previously because people could not afford to buy them. There was no rationing. Prices of food and commodities had doubled compared to 1952 but wages had not increased proportionately. There had been an increase in the number of privately owned automobiles in the past six months.
4. In October 1956 [redacted] the Designing Office for Chemical Industry, received orders from the Ministry for Civilian Construction to stop all work on civilian construction projects which were less than 60 percent completed with the exception of certain special projects considered essential, such as bridges. [redacted] the reason for this order was lack of funds [redacted] organization received a cut in the funds allotted for civilian construction. Also, the State plan which was published in April 1957 after it had been submitted for approval to the USSR, did not provide any budget for many construction projects and only 30 percent of the planned investment for 1957 construction projects was granted. For example, 42,000,000 lei were required for the construction of an industrial complex in Braila but only 8,000,000 lei were allotted. Most of the funds were allotted to heavy metallurgical industries and no money was provided for the production of fertilizer although there had been much discussion about this at the Party Congress in Bucharest. This situation created chaos in the [redacted] industry. [redacted] The one project [redacted] was the Mangalia Base for submarines which was completed early in 1956 [redacted] in March 1957 construction on a nuclear research and development station near Bucharest had begun.
5. [redacted] censorship of all correspondence coming from abroad existed but [redacted] was not official. There was no stamp to indicate that letters had been opened but it was obvious from the condition of the envelopes [redacted]

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With regard to telephone censorship [redacted] in a central telephone exchange in Victoria (N 44-49, E 27-37) [redacted] one whole floor of the building was occupied by a monitoring office whose employees were all women trained by the Security Forces to listen to telephone conversations. [redacted] there were three degrees of telephone control. In one category, telephone conversations of the entire population were checked once a month. If, during such checks, a person's conversation aroused any suspicion, that person was moved to the second category and his conversation was then checked once per week. If the suspicion persisted, the individual was transferred to the first category of control in which all of his telephone conversations were recorded on a magnetophonic tape. This office was called the listening service (serviciul de ascultare).

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No increase in censorship was observed.

6. [redacted] no air raid shelters built recently except a very large one in the center of Bucharest which was completed in March or April 1956 under orders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and which was connected by an underground passage with a residential section called Parcul Jianu where all the important Communist leaders resided.

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[redacted] Up to the beginning of 1957 only doctors and military personnel had atomic defense practice but in late 1956 the civil defense organization, ALA, required that all persons attend ten sessions on practical and theoretical instruction in atomic defense. These classes were held twice a week and handled through the civilian places of employment. Employees were given time off in the afternoons to attend. Theoretical classes lasted two to three hours, and practical field instruction, four hours. People ridiculed the practical exercises because the instructors told them to imagine that there was a bucket containing colored water which was contaminated.

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[redacted] Some propaganda was sandwiched into the lectures in which it was pointed out what Americans might do. There were no practice alerts but the alert machine was checked once a year.

Immunization against typhoid fever was obligatory and free of charge for all citizens and anti-tuberculosis vaccine was compulsory for all children.

7. [redacted] in every institution and enterprise there was a security agent. These agents were recruited from among former political prisoners, those who were sentenced to prison, and those who had already served prison sentences.

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8. There were no restrictions on weather broadcasts. On the contrary, the number of broadcasts had increased.

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9. [redacted] all the civilian population who had been moved from the Yugoslavian border area in 1951 and resettled in Moldova (N 46-00, E 27-00) had been forceably returned to their former homes in fall 1956. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] all persons who had lived in the Baita (N 46-50, E 24-32) area were moved to various locations in the country in fall 1954. [redacted] 25X1
the reason for this move was that uranium had been discovered in that area. [redacted] uranium 25X1
had been discovered in late 1956 or early 1957 near Oravita (N 45-02, E 21-42) [redacted] in all probability, 25X1
the people there had also been moved.

10. [redacted] since the beginning of 1957 a great intensification of commercial relations with foreign countries and establishing of trade agencies had been in progress. There was a great need for qualified personnel to fill positions in foreign countries. Rumania has reverted to the Stalinist ideology after a short vacillation under the pressure of the Soviet denunciation of Stalin for which the Soviets themselves are now sorry, according to rumors in Bucharest. 25X1

In the last part of March or early April 1956 a delegation of Soviet government officials came to Bucharest for four days to talk to officials of the Rumanian government [redacted]

[redacted] shortly afterwards, the newspapers and the radio announced that the armed forces and the Security Forces were to be reduced. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] approximately 20,000 of them had been released [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] approximately 90 percent of these persons had been recalled into the Securitate.

11. In spring 1956 there was a large evacuation of Soviet dependents, that is, dependents of Soviet counselors and technical advisers (civilian personnel). Four large apartment blocks on Brezoiianu Street were vacated by the dependents of Soviet civilian personnel and given back to the Rumanians.

12. [redacted] 25X1

13. [redacted]

14. [redacted]

15. There had been a decrease in propaganda inciting hatred of foreigners and Americans, in particular. All propaganda has been directed toward developing better relations with all countries.

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