

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

FLD 102

COUNTRY Bulgaria

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR 28 JUL 50

SUBJECT City of Harmanli

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1C

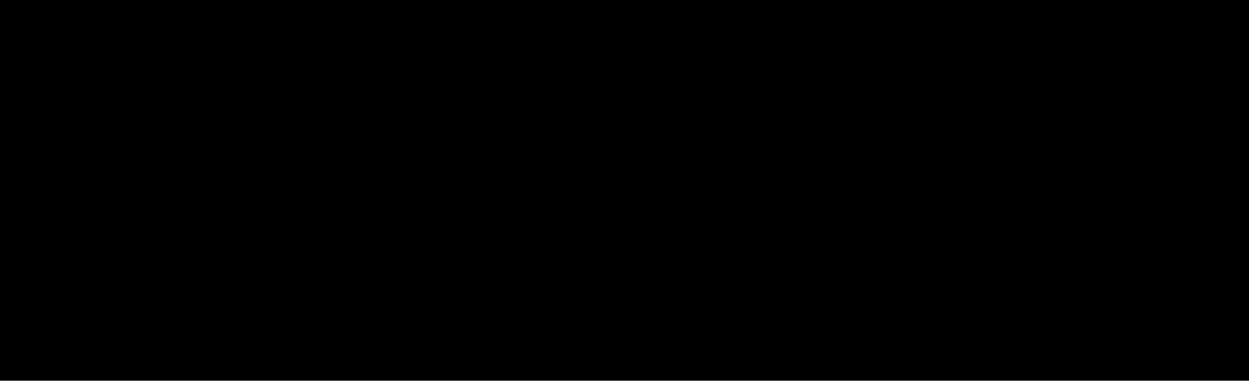
PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The town of Harmanli is built on flat, agricultural land in the valley of the Maritsa river. The only building constructed in town since 1945 has been an orphanage. In general, the streets are straight and wide and electricity is available for general lighting. Few buildings are higher than two stories, and many houses have stores on the street floor and living quarters on the second floor. Most of the buildings are painted white.
2. The most important street in the town is the Stantsiyonna which starts at the railroad station in the center of town and eventually becomes Haskoy highway. The important buildings in the town are the Provincial Peoples' Council building, the post office building, the National Security building, the Provincial Agricultural Administration building, and the Peoples' Bank. There are also tobacco warehouses, tobacco cooperatives, restaurants, the Party Theater, and the market place, all of which are located on Stantsiyonna Avenue. No monuments or historical buildings exist.
3. The population figure is given as 10,700. The minorities comprise 5 per cent Turks and 2 per cent Armenians in addition to a number of Moslem and Christian gypsies. No friction seems to exist among these minorities. No unnaturalized foreigners are known to live in the town. Most people belong to the Eastern Orthodox religion, but many do not attend church for fear of Communist reprisals. The town has two churches, an old and a new one.
4. The railroad station, called the Gara Harmanli, is located southeast of the town and lies on the Istanbul-Central Europe line. There are five tracks at the station which serve for the handling of freight. The railroad station is connected with Svilengrad and Zlati Dol by a single, standard-gauge track. Three passenger trains and one freight train depart to and return from Svilengrad daily. These trains are pulled by steam locomotives. The city does not have any river traffic or an airport. Local transportation is by horse and carriage and trucks, but taxis are unknown. There are two bus lines, one of which runs from Harmanli to Cherepovo to Hlebovo to Topolovgrad; the other line runs from Harmanli to Elgarin to Pomostlok (sic) to Glavan.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	#	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	#	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NORR												
ARMY	#	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	#	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI												

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document No. 023  
 No Change in Class.   
 Declassified  
 Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005400100003-2  
 Auth: RR 70-2  
 Date: 20 JUN 1978  
 By: 015

RETURN TO RECORDS CENTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE JOB 53-103 BOX 53

~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5. The city is a district center which is connected administratively with the province of Stara Zagora. The city government is called the Town Peoples' Council. The militia chief at Harmanli is Donchu Kolev. One militia post is located in the center of town and the other east of the town of Benkovski. No area is guarded by more than the normal number of guards. At night the town is patrolled by militia patrols which travel in pairs. The town is also patrolled by Communist Party members who carry out special patrol duties. It is the duty of this patrol to stop any stranger in the town and investigate his papers. Also all people who are under suspicion by the militia are subject to continuous investigation, but the people of the town are permitted to circulate freely.
6. The majority of the inhabitants derive their income from the growing and processing of tobacco. There are no factories or enterprises in town employing more than 1,000 persons. The prices of all consumer goods are fixed by the Central Commerce Department in Sofia, and the black market has been suppressed by intensive measures.
7. The Communist Party headquarters is located on the main avenue in a privately owned building which has been expropriated. Among the party leaders are the Chairman of the District Peoples' Council, Todor Tzaradov; and the Party Secretary Nedelcho (fnu).
8. The authorities have set up public loudspeakers which operate whenever the government wants the people to listen to propaganda. Those who possessed radios in the past may still keep them but only members of the Communist Party may purchase new radios. While officially the owners of receiving sets are not subject to restrictions, there are spies who listen behind doors and windows, and an individual caught listening to broadcasts from the Democracies is sent to a concentration camp.
9. Because there is a housing shortage in the town, the Party finds living quarters for any member of the Communist Party who arrives on municipal or government duty, and if necessary to make room, evicts a person who does not favor the regime. It is impossible for a person arriving in town to have a place to live, for the housing authorities control all vacant housing facilities. A newcomer to the city is not trusted, regardless of his documentation, unless he is on official duty. Only one hotel-restaurant, the Horemag No. 1, containing 30 to 40 rooms, remains in town and people of all types patronize it. The majority of the native population own their own homes, while the relationship between property owners and tenants is settled by the housing authority.
10. The town has a trade school for about 400 select workers. There is one coeducational lyceum with about 900 students ranging from 12 to 20 years of age. No institution of higher learning exists.
11. The city's two motion picture theaters show only Russian films. As for sports, there is a football field and a city park located in the eastern section of the town.
12. Heavy work and insufficient food is the cause of poor health among the population. Tuberculosis is much in evidence. Besides a government hospital there are also workers' clinics and dispensaries. The cemetery is situated southwest of the town.
13. The military units in and around the town are as follows: In 1947 12 Infantry regiment came to Harmanli and occupied the barracks of 6 Cavalry regiment which was moved to Yambol. One company of the infantry regiment is stationed at Ivailovgrad. The highest ranking officer at Harmanli is a

~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]

major. Also stationed at Harmanli is an anti-tank battery of a regiment of 2 Army. This regiment was previously located at Harmanli, then transferred to Chirpan and later ordered to Stara Zagora. About the same time as the arrival of 12 Infantry Regiment to Harmanli, an anti-tank battery of 2 Anti-tank Regiment also came to town and was established in the houses along the city park as well as in a tobacco warehouse. Details about their equipment are not known to source, except that four artillery pieces are standing outside the warehouse. Tractors are used to draw these guns out of town whenever the soldiers leave for gun practice. Both guns and tractors are of German manufacture, [REDACTED] the ammunition used.

14. No war preparations were noted [REDACTED] except that in 1949 an inspection was held of all reserves, transportation vehicles and horses.

25X1X

~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~