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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Position of Jews in Bulgaria

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1. In September 1944, there were approximately 60,000 Jews in Bulgaria. At present only 10,000 remain, the other 50,000 having been allowed to immigrate to Israel with their goods and chattels.
2. Of the 10,000 Jews who still remain, approximately 5,000-6,000 wish to emigrate; the Bulgarians are not expected to prevent them from leaving. Of the 4,000 who have not specified a desire to emigrate, 2,000 have expressed the definite intention of remaining in Bulgaria.
3. There is some anti-Semitism among the civilian population, but the problem is not great because of the decreased Jewish population. The Communist regime tolerates Jews. There is an official Bulgarian-Israeli Committee; the Chief Rabbi supports the "Peace" Campaign.
4. Most of the Jews were merchants and professional men; the merchants have been eliminated as a result of the nationalization of industries, not because of persecution. Jews still remain in the professions.
5. The two high-ranking Jewish Party members of any consequence in the Government are:
  - a. Ruben Avramov Levi, 51, one of the Secretaries of the Central Committee, who was appointed President of the Committee for Science, Art, and Culture in early February 1952; and
  - b. Jacques Nathan, approximately 50, not known to be a senior Party member, who is the Vice President of the Committee for Science, Art, and Culture.
6. Luchezar Avramov, an up-and-coming Jew, is at present Secretary of the Dimitrov Union of People's Youth.

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 Comment: We consider that neither the Party nor the government is concerned with eliminating Jews from responsible positions, particularly since those few who remain in Bulgaria must realize they will be required to follow Party principles. We believe the Bulgarian Communist Party is well pleased to have Jewish brains at its disposal.

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