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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Bulgaria

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SUBJECT The Hristo Botev Line; Other Military Information

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1. The name of the fortified line "Derviska Mogila" was changed and now is called the Hristo Botev line; the terminus of the line is near the Black Sea at the city of Malko Trnovo and extends as far as the area south of the city of Svilengrad (on the Turkish-Bulgarian-Greek border). The fortifications are modelled after the Siegfried line and are, in certain areas, 30 meters deep. The Bulgarian General Staff did not show much interest in the Hristo Botev line until a year and a half ago when the Soviet Army of Occupation held maneuvers in the Jambol-Elhovo area. No detailed information of the present status of this line of fortification is available.
2. There is no line of fortification on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier.
3. There are, however, single long-range Krupp cannons emplaced along the Black Sea coast.
4. General Ivan Kinov, Chief of the Bulgarian Army General Staff is believed responsible for the overall military plans for Bulgaria and has a role in the coordinated Yugoslav-Albanian-Bulgarian plans for military defense. An Operations Section in the Bulgarian Ministry of War actually formulates strategic military plans. A large proportion of the former personnel of this section were "career soldiers". The new chiefs of the Operations Section are not known, but they are thought to be Soviet officers in Bulgarian uniform.
5. The present Bulgarian military force is in excess of that permitted by the Peace Treaty. The armed Militia now numbers more than 120,000 men; there are covertly labelled by the Communists as "frontier guards" under the control of the Ministry of Interior.
6. In the regular Army certain regiments have been increased by three or four additional companies, which are known as either "guard", "frontier" or "partisan" troops. These new companies and their expenses are carried on the financial account of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Comment: The figure for the armed Militia seems too high. The latest available figures on the number of personnel in the Militia is 35,000; this number excludes the "frontier guards", the municipal police, and forest rangers, all of whom are at present under the Ministry of Interior.)

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