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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY **Bulgaria**

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SUBJECT **1. Army Structure and Personnel
2. Air Force**

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1. Army Structure and Breakdown:

- a. The Bulgarian Army Ground Forces were composed of 4 armies (2 located in the northern and 2 in the southern region) until sometime between the end of 1948 and the beginning of 1949 (exact date unknown).
- b. At that time the over-all structure of the armed forces was reorganized and reformed into 3 armies, with headquarters in Sofia, Plovdiv, and Stalin respectively.
- c. The armies, each with an "army" department; war section; and logistical branch attached to army headquarters, are composed of the following units:
 - (1) First Army - Headquarters at Sofia:
 - (a) The 1 Stratsin Infantry Division stationed at Sofia;
 - (b) The 3 Bainska Infantry Division stationed at Vratsa;
 - (c) The 7 Rila Infantry Division stationed at Dupnitsa.
 - (2) Second Army - Headquarters at Plovdiv:
 - (a) The 2 Infantry Division stationed at Plovdiv;
 - (b) The 8 Tundzha Infantry Division stationed at Stara Zagora;
 - (c) The 9 Balkanska Infantry Division stationed at Sliven;
 - (d) The 10 Rodopska Infantry Division stationed at Kurdzhali.

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- 2 -

(3) Third Army - Headquarters at Stalin (Varna):

- (a) The 4 Infantry Division stationed at Pleven;
- (b) The 5 Dunavska Infantry Division stationed at Ruse;
- (c) The 6 Preslavaska Infantry Division stationed at Shumen; and
- (d) The 11 Debruchanska Infantry Division stationed at Stalin.

(4) Cavalry Brigade - Headquarters at Tolbukhin (Dobrich):

- (a) The 4 Cavalry Regiment stationed at Yambol;
- (b) The 6 Cavalry Regiment stationed at Harmanli;
- (c) The 8 Cavalry Regiment stationed at Silistra; and
- (d) The 10 Cavalry Regiment stationed at Shumen.

2. Army Personnel:

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- a. Major General Lazar Gurov, C in C of the Bulgarian Army since some-time during 1950.



- b. Major General Metodi Hristov, chief of the Political Training Section under the Ministry of Defense.

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- c. General (fnu) Grekov, Commanding Officer of the Second Army.



- d. Brigadier General Slavcho Trnaki, former Commanding Officer of the Third Army.

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- e. General (fnu) Panchevski, Minister of Defense.

- f. Colonel Kristyu Angelov, Commanding Officer of the Cavalry Brigade.

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- g. Lieutenant Colonel Atanas Sliykov, General Staff officer, tank specialist



3. Air Force:

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- a. The Bulgarian Air Force, composed of Bomber, Fighter, and Reconnaissance units, has its headquarters at Sofia:

- (1) The Bomber units, using Dornier and Stuka type bombers are located at the following fields:

- (a) Bozhurishte (Sofia);
- (b) Skobelevo (Plovdiv);

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- 3 -



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- (c) Markovo (Plovdiv) largest airfield in Bulgaria, with runways 2 kilometers long and used for largest type bombers;
- (d) Stara Zagora;
- (e) Yambol;
- (f) Gorna Oryakhovitsa;
- (g) Telish, with night landing equipment (for blind landings); and
- (h) Tolbukhin, with night landing equipment (for blind landings).

(2) The Fighter units, using Messerschmidt, Devotin, Yak, Ilyushin, and jet-planes (recent designations unknown) fighters are located at the following fields:

- (a) Vrazhdebna (Sofia);
- (b) Bozhurishte (Sofia); and
- (c) Karlovo.

(3) The Reconnaissance units, using various types of Bulgarian manufactured aircraft (designations unknown) are located at the following fields:

50X1-HUM

- (a) Bozhurishte (Sofia);
- (b) Plovdiv;
- (c) Stara Zagora;
- (d) Yambol;
- (e) Lovech;
- (f) Kazanlik; and
- (g) Tolbukhin.

(4) These units also make use of the following temporary airfields:

- (a) Virba (Radomir district);
- (b) Orlak (Radomir district);
- (c) Kukorevo (Yambol district);
- (d) Stalin;
- (e) Burgas; and
- (f) Polikraishte (Ternevo district).

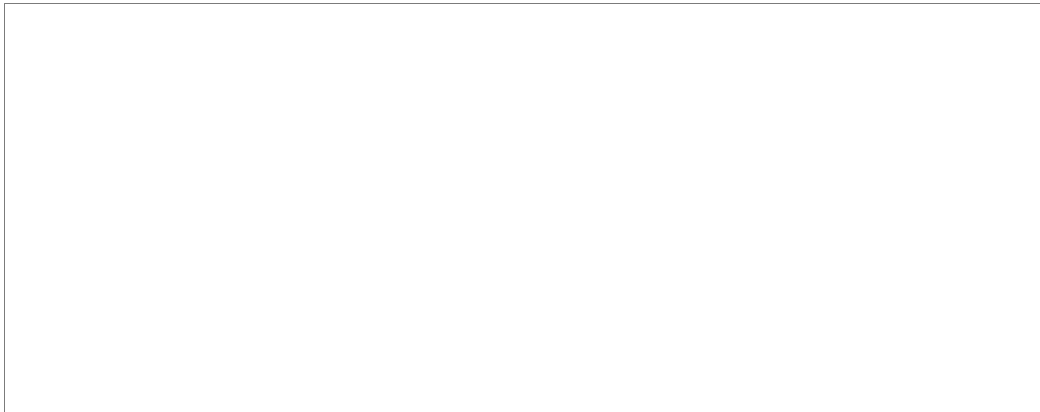
(5) There are two Naval air bases: one at Balchik and the other at Stalin. (Type and number of planes unknown).

b. The Air Force is broken down into the following units:

- (1) Air Regiment (composed of 2 to 3 groups);
- (2) Air Group (composed of 3 to 4 Companies);
- (3) Air Company (composed of 3 to 4 Wings); and
- (4) Air Wing (composed of 3 to 4 aircraft).

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c. A Parachute Battalion composed of 4 companies is stationed at Telish.



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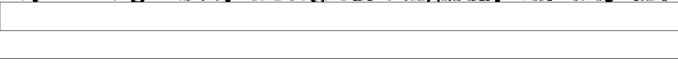
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 4 -



5. Soviet Activity:

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a. There are Soviet officers, wearing mufti, throughout Bulgaria, but they are difficult to observe. 

b. It appears that Sofia is being prepared to be used as a military headquarters. For this reason, underground signal installations and underground shelters, located near the Ministry of Defense were built and prepared for Soviet forces sometime during May 1950.

50X1-HUM

c. Soviet arms and equipment are currently being transhipped from Rumania to Bulgaria via the Tolbukhin, Novgradets, Kaspichan, and Shumen rail artery.

d. The Bulgarian army is currently using the following Soviet arms and equipment:

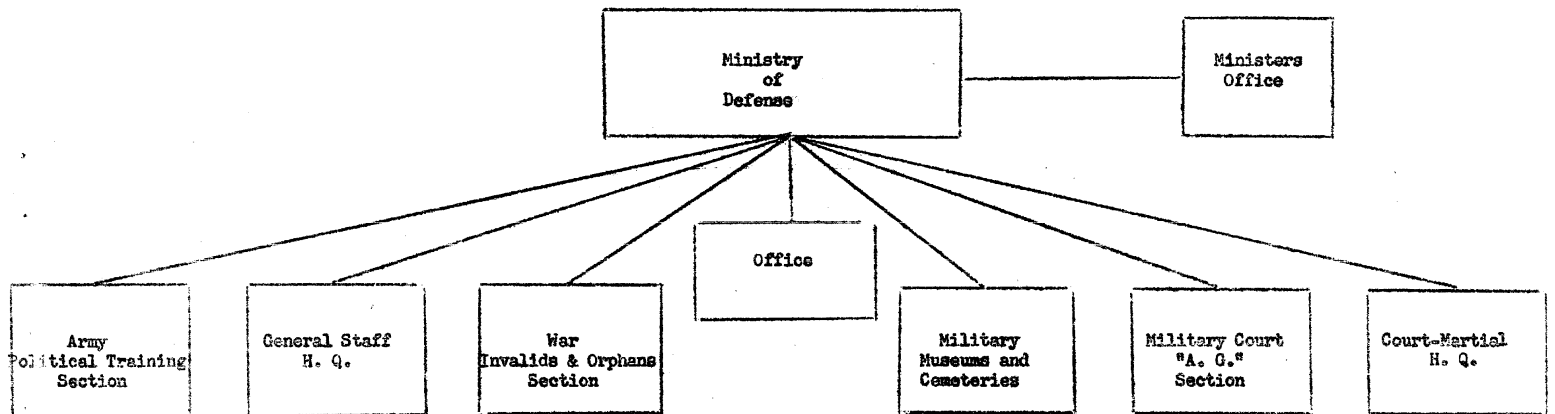
- (1) Infantry rifle and bayonet (type and caliber unknown);
- (2) Heavy machine gun - movable, on wheel carriage and sled carriage (type and caliber unknown);
- (3) Automatic pistol (type and caliber unknown);
- (4) Katyushka;
- (5) Several types of field pieces (type and caliber unknown);
- (6) T-34 tank;
- (7) Aircraft: Yak type and various jet planes (number and types unknown).

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APPENDIX "A"



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APPENDIX "B"

**FOREIGN
Liaison & M. A.**

**General
Staff
H. Q.**

**War Training
Dept.**

- Operations Section
- Training Section
- Mobilization Section
- (Unknown)
- Supply Section
- Transport Section
- Intelligence Section (R. O.)
- Infantry Section--Infantry Inspectorate
- Engineer Section--Engineer Inspectorate
- Artillery Section--Artillery Inspectorate
- Signal Section--Signal Inspectorate
- Ordnance Section--Ordnance Inspectorate

**Ordnance &
Supply H. Q.**

- Ordnance Supply Section
- Supply Section
- General Supplies
- Military Factories

(Unknown)

- Cavalry H.Q.
- Armored H.Q.
- Air Force H.Q.
- Naval H.Q.
- A. A. H.Q.
- Military Academies
- Military Training Schools

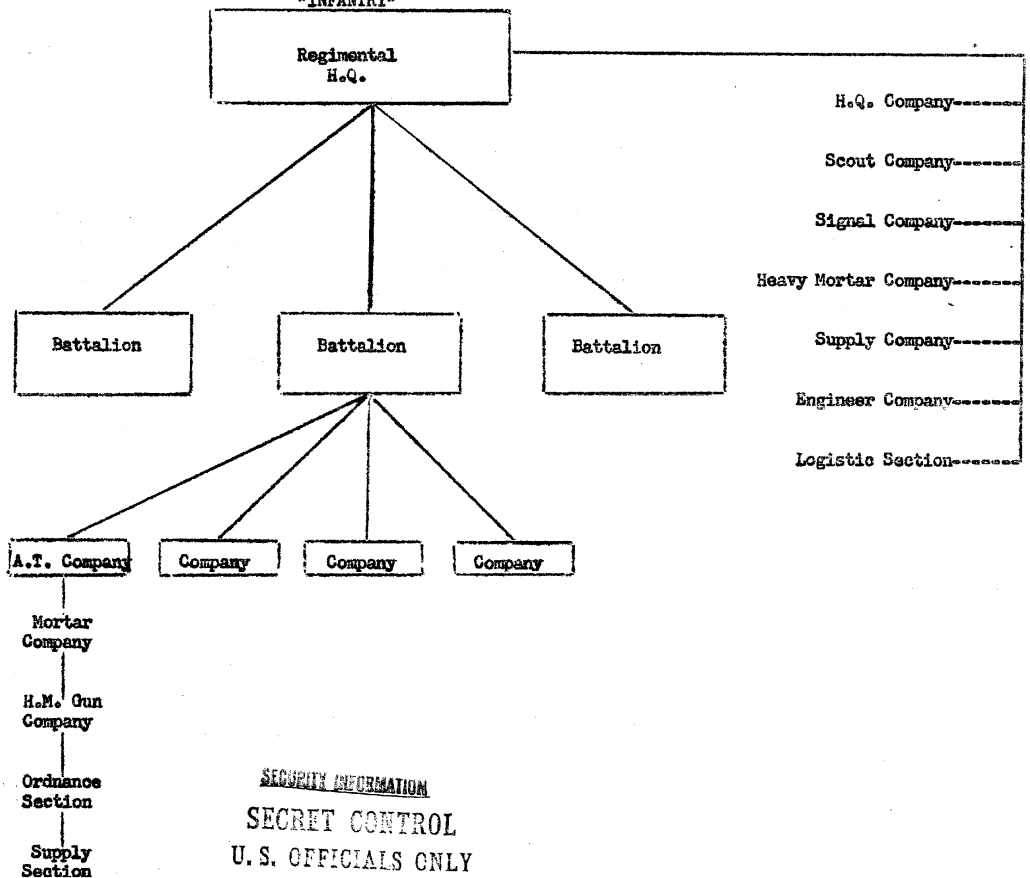
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