

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		(b)(3)
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Medical Information	DATE DISTR.	17 February 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	3	
DATE OF INFO.	September 1950 and as Indicated	REQUIREMENT NO.		(b)(3)
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		(b)(1) (b)(3)

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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SOURCE:		(b)(1) (b)(3)
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Medical Education

- 1. The system of medical education in Bulgaria was reorganized in 1948. At this time, the medical faculties of the universities became medical "academies" as part of the government health service and lost their former independent academic status. There are two medical academies in Bulgaria, one in Sofia and one in Plovdiv. In 1949, approximately 7,000 students were enrolled for the medical course.
- 2. The course of study lasts six years. The first four years of study are the same for all students. During the last two years, however, the students are directly under the State health service and are required to specialize in either therapeutics, surgery, or preventative medicine. After qualifying in one field of medicine, graduates must remain in that field and it is not possible to change from one branch to another after graduation.
- 3. These medical courses are also attended by students, already in uniform, who intend to become Army physicians. In 1949, there were 10 to 15 such students among the 400 medical students at Sofia. These Army students later attend special Army medical academies where they receive special training. Even at the civilian academy, particular attention is paid to the military students.
- 4. The Medical Academy in Sofia uses the Aleksandrovska Hospital. This hospital has 2,000 beds and, in 1950, added a special wing for nervous diseases.

Clinics and Medical Centers

- 5. In 1950, there were 120 to 140 clinics, 80 of which had been established between 1945 and 1950, located in both new and old buildings. Patients registered at one clinic are not permitted to change to another.
- 6. Since 1951, there has been a further reorganization, informant learned from physicians who have recently left Bulgaria. For every 50,000 inhabitants, a

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special medical unit, called Sanitaredinitza, has been created. A Sanitaredinitza comprises a hospital and one or more clinics, and employs at least 50 physicians. The clinics treat and study all forms of disease except malaria.

7. Every industrial enterprise has its medical center, called Sanitarnpunkt, which controls the sanitary conditions at the factory and the nutrition of the workers. The Sanitarnpunkt is attached to the clinic serving its district, but for treatment, workers must go to the clinic responsible for their residence area.

#### Medical Equipment

8. Operating tables, quartz lamps, syringes, and various electrical apparatus (exclusive of X-ray apparatus) are imported from the Soviet Union. Microscopes and other optical instruments are imported from Czechoslovakia.
9. There is a shortage of X-ray apparatus, although tubes have been supplied by UNICEF (United Nations International Childrens' Emergency Fund). In September 1950, there were several boxes apparently containing more than 1,000 X-ray tubes sent by UNICEF at the frontier customs house. Since there is plenty of milk available, it has been Bulgarian policy to ask UNICEF for medical equipment instead of milk.

#### Blood Bank

10. In 1950, there was a blood bank in Sofia, directed by Timev (fnu). Donors received payment, special ration cards, and free passes to movies and other entertainment.

#### Drug Production and Importation <sup>3</sup>

11. In 1950, there were two pharmaceutical factories in Bulgaria, as follows:
  - a. The Hygienic Institute (Rockefeller Foundation), which has been enlarged, and in 1950, produced all the sera and vaccines required as well as crude penicillin in powder form for external use; and
  - b. The Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Industry (formerly the German-owned Sosap Factory on Washington Street in Sofia), which produces camphor calcium, various types of injections including strychnine compounds, drugs, including cough syrups, Hepabit, belladonna extracts, and extracts of other medical herbs; the factory also packs sulfamides which are imported from the Hungarian Chincin works.
12. The following pharmaceutical products are imported:
  - a. From the Soviet Union: Penicillin (yellow and of poor quality), Streptomycin (of American production although it bears the Soviet label) in small quantities only (in 1949-1950, one hospital had a stock of only 80 grams, enough for five or six patients), and sulfamides, including sulphadiazine and Vitamins A, B, C, and D;
  - b. From Hungary: Sulfamides; and
  - c. From UNICEF: Streptomycin (for hospital use; bears the UNICEF label).
13. Neither aureomycin nor cortisone has yet been used in Bulgaria since they are apparently unavailable for import.

#### Tuberculosis Sanatoria

14. There are four tuberculosis sanatoria in Bulgaria, located as follows:

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- a. Iskrets (N 42-59, E 23-14), with 2,000 beds;
- b. Tryavna (N 42-52, E 25-30), with 400-500 beds;
- c. Krichim (N 42-03, E 24-26), with 400-500 beds; and
- d. Byala, which also admits mentally retarded patients.

Anti-Malaria Facilities

15. According to statistics published in 1948, the number of malaria cases has dropped sharply since 1942.
16. The Ministry of Health maintains an Anti-Malaria Institute, whose functions are carried out by three large centers, one at Vidin, one at Petrich, and one at Burgas. The work includes the draining of swamps, a popular campaign for blood tests, and actual treatment.
17. Mosquitoes in the swamps have been attacked with D.D.T. received from UNICEF and with Pyrethrum-based chemicals produced in Bulgaria, including a type similar to Flytox.
18. Quinine is imported, probably from Holland, and sold by a State monopoly. Atabrine is imported from Italy, and plasmochin is imported from Germany. There is a large stock of these three drugs.

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