

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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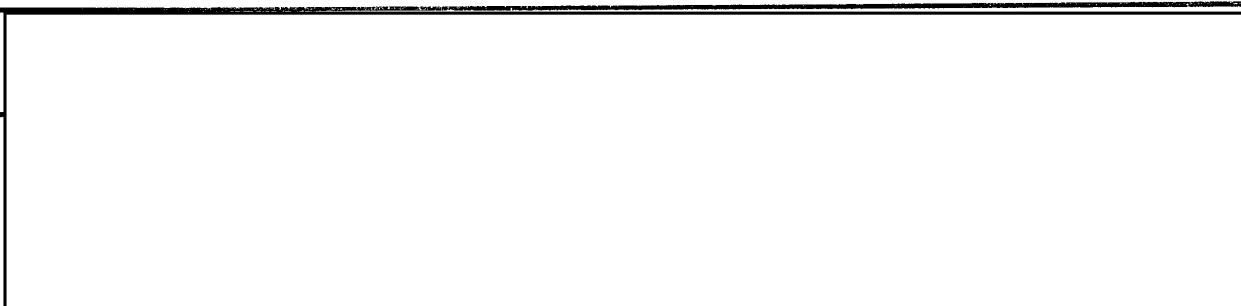
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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The Bulgarian MVD forces, also called Border Guards, are subordinate to the Ministry of Interior, and are directed by a special staff within the ministry and are commanded by Major General Yanko Panov. The staff is divided into the following sections:
 - a. A special staff;
 - b. A political section;
 - c. A supply section;
 - d. A medical section;
 - e. A Border Guard officers school; and
 - f. A Border Guard noncommissioned officers school.
2. Under the special staff, the next subordinate organization is the otryad. There are nine otryads located on the Yugoslav, Greek, and Turkish frontiers and four on the Rumanian frontier and the Black Sea coast. Each otryad is composed of the following sections:
 - a. An otryad staff;
 - b. A political section;
 - c. A supply section;

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- d. A medical section;
- e. An officers school;
- f. A recruit training battalion; and
- g. A reserve detachment.

Each otryad has a Soviet adviser, who takes part in all its problems and is actually the otryad commander. He is a lieutenant colonel and his rank is always superior to that of the Bulgarian commander.

3. The otryad is composed of an unspecified number of kommandaturas, each having a strength of 140-160 soldiers, with approximately 12 officers. A kommandatura has under its jurisdiction a number of border posts, called zastavas. A zastava has three officers, as follows:
 - a. A commander with the rank of lieutenant or "lieutenant-major";
 - b. An assistant with the rank of lieutenant or junior lieutenant; and
 - c. A political officer of the same rank.
4. The recruit training battalion is not considered to be a kommandatura, and may have 300 or more soldiers. The training course lasts three months, and consists exclusively of instruction in the border service. Upon completion of training, the soldiers are sent directly to kommandaturas.
5. The nine otryads on the Turkish, Greek, and Yugoslav frontiers have headquarters as follows:
 - a. Vidin;
 - b. Sofia, with offices in the city and just west of it;
 - c. Kyustendil, this headquarters is located on both sides of the road leading to Skoplje;
 - d. Petrich;
 - e. Nevrokop;
 - f. Devin;
 - g. Ivaylovgrad;
 - h. Lyubimets;
 - i. Elkhovo; and
 - j. Malko Turnovo
6. The four otryads on the Rumanian frontier and along the Black Sea coast are as follows:
 - a. Pleven;
 - b. Balchik;
 - c. Varna; and
 - d. Burgas

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7. The Border Guards are sometimes described as otryads of the MVR (Ministerstvo Vnutreshni Raboti - Ministry of Internal Affairs) corresponding to the Soviet MVD. Otryads are often given names, and at Varna, they are called Chekists, a name sometimes erroneously applied to the entire forces. At Gorna Dzhumaya they are called the Uragantsi, and and at Khaskovo, they are known as MVR.
8. The only official designation of these forces is "Voyska MVR" (Military MVR) or Vnutreshni Voyski (Interior Army). Those actually on the frontier are called Granitchna Voyska (Frontier Army).
9. The men are armed with Shpagin 7.62 automatic pistols with a range of 200 meters and a 72 cartridge clip, allegedly capable of being emptied in two seconds of continuous firing. The men are also equipped with Degtyarev light machine guns which weigh 9.2 kilograms, and Soviet Vintovka rifles which are stored. Their uniform is brown, with riding breeches and a long blouse, black boots, a blue cap, a colored leather belt, and a brown cloak with a double row of yellow buttons with a star.
10. The MVD troops cooperate with the Militia in preserving internal order. Frontier sectors are rigidly organized and controlled, with particular concentration on the Yugoslav frontier.
11. Kyustendil appears to be the most important sector on the Yugoslav frontier. In this sector, the whole frontier is protected by a barbed wire barrier, which allegedly covers the entire Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier. The barrier is approximately 200 meters inside Bulgarian territory, and between the barbed wire and the actual frontier, there are narrow patches of cultivated ground, five to six meters wide. Use of cultivated ground to provide a check on passage to and from the frontier was adopted on Soviet advice by all the satellite states. Residents in the area are issued special permits to travel in these zones, and they must have a permit from the Dirzhavna Sigurnost before they can change zones.
12. The following fortifications are located on the frontier:
 - a. Zig-zag trenches;
 - b. Machine gun nests;
 - c. Observation posts; and
 - d. Artillery positions, antitank obstacles, and concrete walls on the roads crossing the frontier.

The frontier is continuously patrolled.

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