

ITEM No 11600/53

LL
19 Nov
VI - 1267

BULGARIA

INDUSTRY (1700)
Mining (1706)

Soviet Research Mission in Bulgaria

SOURCE ROME: A Bulgarian emigrant.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: "Gorubso" is not a "Soviet research mission" but one of the five mixed Bulgaro-Soviet societies. One of its tasks is the exploitation of the lead and zinc deposits in the KARDZHALI region.

"Gorubso" and the other four mixed Bulgaro-Soviet societies are operated with 50 per cent Bulgarian and 50 per cent Soviet capital. These funds are supplied by the respective governments. The management is supposed to be mixed. However, in fact the Soviets occupy all key positions and the whole enterprises are run according to Soviet directives.

The discovery of iron ore in CHEPINO and of aluminum and lead in the PLOVDIV area is unknown to this office.

The only discovered and confirmed oil was found near SHABLA (Dobrudja) on the Black Sea coast, one year ago. The discovery of oil in the SILISTRA region, on exactly the opposite side of the Bulgaro-Rumanian border, is possible but must be considered as UNCONFIRMED.

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For several years the Soviet research mission, called the "Gorubso," has been at work in Bulgaria. The mission is composed of 100 specialized engineers and does research work throughout Bulgaria. The commission gave special attention to BUHOVO and KARDZHA. In CHEPINO they found large strata of steel ore of a very good quality. Aluminum and lead was found in the mountains near PLOVDIV. Research work is carried on continually and as soon as something is found, the mission sets up barracks and starts exploitations.

(Over)

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The metal obtained is sent to Soviet Union immediately.

The Bulgarian Government does not have any control over this commission, which is financed by Bulgaria, but works on its own. The work in the mines is done with the help of prisoners. In Dobrudja near SILISTRA they found large oil wells. Unfortunately, the oil flows off toward PLOESTI, i.e. toward Rumania. The Soviet and Bulgarian engineers are doing their best to hold back the oil. All specialists were gathered in SILISTRA. It is added that drinking water no longer exists in this zone. Certain experiments are also being made on the Dunaj. The oil stratum is so rich that even the water of the Dunaj is mixed with oil at this point. At night one can see flames over the water. These flames are burning oil that has penetrated from the earth to the surface of the water. People say that there is a plan to make a dam at the Dunaj to stop oil which is flowing toward Rumania.

End.