

M
July 12
VI/406 c

BULGARIA

INDUSTRY (1700)
Mining and
Oil (1706)

PETROLEUM AND URANIUM IN BULGARIA

SOURCE ROME : A 55-year-old Bulgarian emigrant.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to April 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT : The reported version about the exploitation of the Bulgarian oil deposits is unknown to this office.

ROME RFE Item No.10264/54 reported that in 1953, the BUHOVO uranium mines employed 649 workers plus 2,200 soldiers. We are of the opinion that these figures could not have essentially changed. For more details about this mine, see TRIESTE RFE Item Nos. 10204 and 10602/54.

* * *

Research on petroleum brought from the SHABLA stratum proves that this is the same as that which lies under the sea in the Gulf of STALIN and that of the Rumanian wells at PLOESHT. It has been decided, therefore, that to avoid any ill-effects to the Rumanian industry which might be brought about by full-scale Bulgarian exploitation of the stratum, Bulgarian drilling shall be limited to a small number of wells from the lateral or secondary layers only. The governments of the two countries concerned have agreed that Rumania will cede 40 per cent of the produce of the PLOESHT oil-fields to Bulgaria.

The BUHOVO Uranium Mines.

Source states that there are now about 20,000 workers at the BUHOVO Uranium mines. This area is considered extremely

(Over)

rich in the mineral, as one ton of quartz yields four to five grams of pure uranium.

Source was asked to work as a chemical engineer at BUHOVO three years ago, but he refused as the salary offered -- 3,000 leva per month -- did not compare favorably to the 10,000 leva which was being earned by Russian engineers of the same standing as himself. He said, "BUHOVO is looked on as a sort of prison and one can never get to see one's family, and I did not want to become a complete slave to the hated Communism."

End.