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BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES

Political Education
Morale
Resistance

MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD

Bulgarian Army Morale Reported Low.

SOURCE ATHENS: A Bulgarian peasant who escaped to Greece toward the end of January 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: January 1952

A refugee from Bulgaria whose son is serving in the army says that the morale among Bulgarian troops is extremely low. Despite the political officers' efforts to lift the morale by assuring the troops that in the case of a war the Communist fifth column in Western nations will rise in revolt, it is certain, says the refugee, that the Bulgarian army will disintegrate at the first armed encounter. It is his opinion that most of the men will lay down their arms and surrender in a body.

Many peasants tell their sons, when the latter are conscripted for service in the army, that in the case of a war they must not fight the Americans and their allies but must seize the first opportunity of surrendering.

EVAL. COMMENT: correct