

EH
Oct 17
XI/1958 (E)

RUMANIA

HEALTH (1600)

MEDICAL CARE

SOURCE ATHENS: A 74-year-old Greek repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until August 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This rather general review of health conditions in BUCHAREST is in line with similar contributions received from earlier refugees. See RFE Item Nos. 6111/56 and 4836/55.

+ + +

The outward appearance of people in the streets of BUCHAREST is pitiful, source said. Most people are very poorly dressed and look haggard and pale. Tuberculosis is at an all-time high, as is poliomyelitis.

There is a great lack of drugs. Few drugs are imported, and the locally produced drugs are of questionable quality and do not inspire confidence. A boy, known to source, died after a defective anti-rabies injection. Calcium injections result in inflammations and at times infections. Local penicillin, which costs 10 lei per 200 units, is of doubtful effect. Foreign penicillin is lacking.

There is also a great scarcity of blood plasma. A nephew of source died for the lack of blood plasma as the result of a hemorrhage, following a kidney operation.

All hospitals are crowded. The food at the hospitals is atrocious. The patients are usually given cabbage soup or the juice from boiled pickles. As adequate personnel is lacking, the relatives of the seriously ill are permitted to stay at the hospital and nurse the patients.

In cases needing urgent attention, it is difficult to find a doctor. Grave cases are moved to hospitals by ambulances from the first aid stations, but they take a long

(over)

time in arriving, and often the patients die.

In every quarter of the town there is a "dispensary" which has from 10 to 15 beds for urgent cases. Owing to the shortage of space at hospitals, beds are placed in corridors and auxiliary spaces. In cases not of an urgent nature, doctors are usually bribed to issue a certificate for admittance to a hospital.

End