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30 July 1951  
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RUMANIA

FOOD

People in Rumania explain the shortage of food by the steadily increasing number of Russian troops in the country, and by the evacuations from certain frontier areas which disorganized the regular system of supply. The Soviet troops and evacuated people are fed from ordinary stores and food depots, and not from the strategic reserves of the state.

Neither sugar nor rice and macaroni are available in state-owned stores; even on the free market they are scarce. The officially run free market charges 500 to 700 per cent more for many essential commodities which can be bought only on ration cards at reasonable prices.

In BUCHAREST, all smaller bakeries have been closed for a long time, and only two large bakeries, the former Gagel and Groszvesti establishments, are open. Recently, these two bakeries were equipped with new, modern machinery, and new flour stores. Small bakeries are kept in some districts for emergency, but do not work regularly. In the people's opinion these small bakeries are maintained, in case the two large ones are taken over by military authorities.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: June 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : reliable  
Information: confirmed by other sources

Explanations for food shortage are probable.