

LL
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VII - 670

BULGARIA

HEALTH (1600)
Medicines (1602)

Shortage Of Medicines

SOURCE TRIESTE: Confidential source.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: End of December 1952.

EVAL. COMMENT: Matters correspond with similar information in our files (see Item No. 14764/52.)

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This incident which happened to a trustworthy person (NU), will give a good idea of the absolute shortage of medicines in Bulgaria:

The abovementioned person went to a drug store in SOFIA and asked for some Aspirin tablets for the sum of one Leva. The pharmacist told her that he could only give her a 0.40 Leva's worth of aspirin. The poor woman started pleading for the requested quantity of this medicine stressing that several members of her family had colds (there was a light influenza epidemic in SOFIA) and that she therefore needed at least a Leva's worth. But all her insistence was not any good and she had to give in to the pharmacist's decided refusal and to be content with only a 40 cent's worth of aspirin.

End.