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Sep 25  
V/360BULGARIA

EDUCATION	(1000)
Special Schools	(1006)
Professional Re-education	(1008)

HEALTH	(1600)
Medical Personnel	(1605)

NURSING SCHOOLS IN SOFIA AND PLOVDIV

SOURCE ISTANBUL : A 48-year-old Bulgarian of above average intelligence; a former regular Army Captain who was dismissed in 1946. Since then he has worked as a clerk and finally as an assistant mechanic. He is quite observant and has considerable information on a wide range of topics. Escaped to Turkey the first week of December 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Until beginning of December 1953.

EVALUATION COMMENT : There is an acute shortage of nurses in Bulgaria, where ten special schools for training of nurses were opened. The schools are located in SOFIA, PLEVEN, KOLAROVGRAD, STALIN, TOLBUKHIN, BLAGOVGRAD, BURGAS, HASKOVO, PLOVDIV and in VIDIN.

Young girls, single, who completed the 9th form and are not older than 23 years are eligible. Most of the schools have two departments: One for training nurses for general hospitals (a two-year course,) the other one for training of specialized nurses for children's hospitals (a two and a half years' course.) For more details please see "Narodna Mladost" of April 24 1954.

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I know that there are nursing schools in SOFIA and PLOVDIV. Both schools were in existence many years before September 9 1944. The nurse training school in SOFIA is located in the Cerven Krist -- the Red Cross -- hospital building and is administered by the Red Cross. The

students receive their instruction in the same hospital.

I do not know the exact location of the nursing school in PLOVDIV; I have not been there. Their practical training courses are given in various hospitals. There is a boardinghouse and a canteen next door to the school. The women students may, as desired by them, either lodge in the boardinghouse or in private boardinghouses, and can have their meals at the canteen. The rent for the boardinghouse (without meals) is insignificant -- it is in the neighborhood of 160 leva per annum. Each student pays an annual tuition fee of 80 Leva.

Girls who have hardly any college education are accepted in both schools. In the course of the last years, it was insisted on that girls with college education be also accepted, although this was not made obligatory. At present a great many girls with this type are following courses in this school.

The training period in this school lasts two years. After having successfully graduated from this school, the girls are appointed to various hospitals as nurses. I do not know what nurses' salaries are, but I know that they are not any worse than the salaries paid to average employees.

As is the case everywhere, it is also required that the girls applying for admission to the nurse training school present their D.S.N.M. card; apart from that, the school administration has to be advised by the "OTDEL KADRI" pertaining to the People's Council of the city from which the student is a candidate, that she can be accepted. A large number of girls to whom the name of "fascist" is given and to whom the doors of institutes of higher education are closed, are now applying for admission to this school. In view of the fact that there is a great need for nurses, no obstacle is made to the admission of this type of girls to this school. Furthermore, these girls do not present a danger to the Communists since, after graduating from these schools, they are not entering into a job which carries great responsibilities. As a result, the Communists are not too punctillious in the matter of their admission.

Both nurse training schools have gained a very reputation. It is believed that the students are well prepared. All subjects taught at the faculty of medicine are

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given in this school in condensed form, and the same discipline is also required. The students are also assigned certain tasks which they will have to carry out in time of war, and they are given instruction in these duties. At the end of the school year 1952/1953 a group of students from the PLOVDIV school was sent to SOFIA. They stayed a short time there and took a course on parachute training.

End.