

ITEM No 3681/56

K
April 11
V-748/E

BULGARIA

HEALTH /1600/
Medicines /1602/

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 29-year-old Bulgarian doctor, native of ASENOVGRAD, who worked as a district doctor until the time of his escape to Turkey.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until November 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: A very useful report on the availability of medicines in Bulgaria, their production and prices. The factory "Galenus" is confirmed in our files. However, to our knowledge the penicillin plant in RAZGRAD started the production of penicillin in September 1954, and today Bulgarian commercial enterprises even offer this drug for export.

This is the first information which reports an amelioration of medicine supply in Bulgaria. The prices given cannot be confirmed owing to lack of pertinent information.

X X X

Source stated that medicine is produced in Bulgaria by the State factory "Galenus" of SOFIA and that all medicine in the country is being distributed through D.S.A.P. "Dirjavno Sanitarno Aptekno Predpriatiye" /State Sanitary - Pharmaceutical Enterprise./

As far as source knows, "Galenus" is the only factory authorized to manufacture pharmaceutical products. The factory has research laboratories where Bulgarian scientists work at improving already existing medicines and carry out research for new drugs. Medicines which are not manufactured in Bulgaria are imported from the Soviet Union and her satellites. Imported medical products mostly come from Hungary, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Eastern Germany. In source's opinion, only a very limited quantity of pharmaceutical products is imported from such Western countries as Switzerland, Holland, and Italy. The most imported medicines are A and E

/more/

vitamin compounds, hormone compounds, "Testiveron," "Glando-
itrine," and "Pitogland." Imported medicines are much more
expensive than Bulgarian products and, therefore, are diffi-
cult to find. In most cases expensive imported drugs may be
found only in the large county hospitals.

The "Galenus" factory also produces sanitary pro-
ducts such as cotton wool, cambric gauze, adhesive plaster.
In 1954 the factory began the production of penicillin.
Streptomycin is not yet manufactured in Bulgaria but is im-
ported from the Soviet Union and, as far as source knows, in
abundant quantities. Auromycine and chloromycine are import-
ed from the West and source thinks it possible that these
drugs are of American origin. Both last-named drugs are ex-
tremely scarce in the country. The production of the "Gale-
nus" plant does not cover Bulgaria's need in medicine. Source
is of the opinion that production at the factory is sporadic
and that there are periods when even the most vital drugs are
not available. In 1955, there was a shortage of all sorts of
vaccines and source thinks that a lack of phials was the
cause of this.

"Galenus" hands over its entire production to D.S.
A.P. which ensures the distribution of medicine all over the
country. The D.S.A.P. has a branch organization at county
level known as "Okrizhno Aptekno Upravleniye" /County Phar-
macy Directorate./ All pharmacies within the boroughs and
villages of the county are affiliated with the O.A.U. Phar-
macies must submit lists of their needs to the O.A.U. which
in turn puts through a request to D.S.A.P. in SOFIA. Village
and borough pharmacies send in their accounts every ten days
and at the end of the month check their monthly sales against
the records of their respective O.A.U. The latter organiza-
tion in turn settles its accounts every month with D.S.A.P.
in SOFIA.

Prior to the Communist era each pharmacy was so
located as to serve 5,000 persons. Source thinks that in
recent years the number of pharmacies has increased.

To give an idea of cost of medicine in Bulgaria,
source prepared the following price list:

Acetysol	1,0	0.07 leva
Aspirine	1 tablet	0.07 leva
Bismutum subnitricum /powder/	1,0	0.24 leva
Bellergamin /tablets/	box of 25	9.60 leva
Calcium gluconicum	1 phial of 10 cc	0.80 leva
Natrium salicylicum	1 phial of 10 cc	1.00 leva
Glucose /10-40 per cent/	1 phial of 10 cc	1.00 leva

/more/

ITEM No 3681/56

3.

NA. bromatum	1 phial of 10 cc . .	1.00 leva
Vitamin B ¹	1 phial of 0.005 . .	0.40 leva
Vitamin C	1 phial of 1.00 . .	0.50 leva
Vitamin A	1 tablet	1.00 leva
Vitamin D ² forte	1 phial	1.80 leva
Vitamin E	1 phial	4.00 leva
Acrobutin	1 phial of 0.10 . .	11.80 leva
Agovirin	1 phial of 0.25 . .	15.00 leva
Extr. Hepatis	1 phial of 5 cc . .	3.80 leva
Extr. Hepatis	bottle of 200 cc . .	14.00 leva
Vinum chinae ferratum	500	14.00 leva
Opii simplex	phial of 0.02 . . .	0.80 leva
Morphini chydrochlorici . . .	phial of 0.02 . . .	0.60 leva
Atropini sulfurici	phial of 0.001 . . .	0.40 leva
Iodine	bottle of 100 cc . .	3.00 leva
Penicillin	phial of 100,000 units	2.00 leva
Streptomycin	1,0	40.00 leva
Ultraceptyl	/tablets of 0.50, box of 20/	6.00 leva
Norsulfazol	/phial of 5 cc./ . .	0.88 leva

End.