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BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES /0300/
Training /0305/

HEALTH /1600/
MDs /1605/

MILITARY SERVICE FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 29-year-old Bulgarian doctor, a 1953 graduate of PLOVDIV's Medical Academy, who escaped to Turkey in November 1955.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until November 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Military training is a compulsory subject at Bulgarian Universities. Training methods, period of duration and examinations as described in this report are not only applied at medical faculties but in every other faculty, and correspond with information available from earlier interviews.

This report, however, well illustrates how sincere the Communist peace intentions are, since military training at universities continues on a large scale.

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Source stated that during the years he studied medicine - probably in 1948 - the Bulgarian Council of Ministers issued a decree regulating the military service for medical students. According to this decree, students of medicine, dentistry and of the Veterinary Faculty have to serve two 1½ months military training periods while attending medical school.

Since 1948, military courses have been included in the curriculum of each medical class. Naturally these courses are not as extensive as those taught at regular military academies, yet the students of medicine get to learn a good deal about military matters. During the first two years, a medical

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student has to learn the full military setup of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Students must specialize in military surgery, first aid on the battle field during both offensive and defensive campaign, have to know how to wage anti-gas warfare. Medical students also have to study military topography so that they should be able to determine where to set up first-aid stations, field hospitals, etc.

At the end of each scholar year, students must pass exams in military studies. A medical student unable to pass his military exam is not allowed to continue his studies in a higher class until he successfully passes his military exam. The training periods are held during the summer months when the medical academies are closed.

A graduating doctor is given the rank of first lieutenant and automatically passes into the military reserve. Female students of medicine also have to attend military courses but they do not participate in summer training courses. Female doctors, upon graduation, are given the rank of lieutenant in the Armed Forces reserve.

End.