

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
Audience Analysis
FEP

PRIORITY
MK
July 31
XI-1793

HUNGARY

EXILE (1200)
Refugees (1204a)

GREEKS IN HUNGARY LISTEN TO WESTERN BROADCASTS.

SOURCE ATHENS: A 41-year-old Greek repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until October 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

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Source, originally from KOZANI, is an almost illiterate farmer forcibly conscripted into the Army by the guerrillas in 1948. After the end of the war he was kept for a while in Albania and then was taken to BUDAPEST. There he was given an abode at the "Dohany Gyar" -- the disused tobacco factory conceded to the Greek Communists.

He acquired a radio only in September 1954. It was a second-hand five-tube set with three wave bands, over which he listened to Western broadcasts with his roommates. Occasionally, he also tuned in to Radio BUDAPEST for music, but could not understand the spoken dialogue.

He said that nearly all the Greeks living in "Dohany Gyar" listened to Western broadcasts mostly after 1930 hours when reception was better. Some were discouraged from listening because of the heavy jamming which prevented them from understanding the broadcasts, especially the VOA ones relayed from SALONIKA. The BBC was clear enough despite jamming, while Radio ATHENS and Radio LARISSA were never jammed.

The Greek Communists in "Dohany Gyar" attacked Western broadcasts as "Fascist" and kept pressuring the other occupants not to listen to the "Fascist lies."

In regard to leaflets, source remembers having seen one once but could not specify the date. A Hungarian acquaintance told him that the radio (he did not specify which) had said

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leaflets would be dropped at a certain place and "that's exactly where they were," he said. "But there were also police agents on the spot preventing people from picking them up."

Source never heard of RFE and could not say where the leaflets come from. He knew only that the leaflets are dropped by balloons. Also he did not know anything about wired radio.

Correspondence with the West is free but erratic, and mail from Greece takes between eight days to two months to arrive in BUDAPEST. Source knew this from his own experience.

End.