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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania/Yugoslavia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Iron Gate Channel of the Danube River	DATE DISTR.	24 May 1954
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1. The Iron Gate channel of the Danube River begins near the 947 km. marker, 17 kilometers upstream from Turnu Severin. The channel is approximately 70 meters wide and 1,700 feet in length, with a water flow of 14 km. an hour. The tow railway system and locomotives are on the Yugoslav shore of the Danube but Yugoslavia and Rumania share equally in the ownership of the Administration for the Iron Gates (APF), formerly CIT. Thirty-four pilots, half Rumanians and half Yugoslavs are employed by the APF and are on duty for four days at a time.
2. Shipping going down the river goes through the Iron Gate channel in three minutes, under its own power, and free of charge. A rudder check is made 33 km. upstream at Moldavia, Rumania, where canal pilots board the ships if the water level is below 80 (sic). If the water is above 80 on the gauge, the pilots go aboard at Drenova.
3. Shipping going up the river is towed through the channel, one vessel at a time, in 45 to 50 minutes. Rudder check is made at Turnu Severin, where a blue flag is raised to signal for locomotive help. Charges are made on a tonnage basis. Normally only one way traffic is permitted, and when shipping is being towed, downstream traffic waits at Voditza, Rumania, for clearance. When shipping going upstream has to wait for clearance, the swift current makes it necessary for engines to be operated at half speed to prevent drifting.

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