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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

[redacted] 25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

25X1

SUBJECT Artillery Training Camp at Hlohovec

[redacted] [redacted] 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Hlohovec artillery training camp is at the foot of Sanok mountain. Beside a tent camp there are numerous permanent structures for staffs and magazines, a target range for light and heavy infantry weapons, an artillery target range and manouver area. There is another artillery range 12 km from the first. The camp is under the division command at Bratislava.

2. An artillery regiment was recently brought to the camp from Bratislava. [redacted] Regimental troops include the staff, 62 to 65 men; quartermaster unit, 20 men; fire direction battery, 32 to 36 men; train, 32 to 35 men. There is a battery of reservists, 115 to 120 men, commanded by Lt. Vosilek, 24 years old, each platoon being armed with one light machine gun, one heavy machine gun, one AA machine gun, one AT rocket projector. It has no guns of its own, pieces being assigned from the regular sections as needed. The 1st Section has 360 men, and consists of three batteries, each with four 122 mm howitzers and six machine pistols. The 2nd Section has 350 to 356 men and is divided and armed like the 1st. The regimental auto park consists of 108 trucks and six other cars. The reservist battery has in addition one Skoda passenger car, two zero motorcycles, five Wiepon trucks and five or six other trucks.

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3. Reservists of the older classes were brought to the camp at the beginning of Jun 1953, and assigned to the reservist battery; 95 percent of them were Czechs, the remainder Slovaks. More than 80 percent were former infantrymen, and none at all had served in the artillery. Training began on 4 Jun 53 with basic infantry refresher training, which lasted a month. After this the men were assigned to the regular batteries for artillery training. There was little theoretical instruction, great weight being laid on handling the guns.

4. There is a second camp at Hlohovec, also with a few permanent barracks and numbers of tents. During the summer of 1953 it was occupied by an infantry regiment from Bratislava, two battalions of an infantry regiment from Komarno,

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a horse-drawn artillery regiment from Bratislava and a communications battalion from Bratislava, newly motorized. After a long period of exercises as units, these held exercises together.

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