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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Korea/Indo-China

SUBJECT Arms for North Korea and Vietminh

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DATE DISTR. 5 May 1954

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1. Shipments of arms and war material from Czechoslovakia to North Korea and Vietminh, which continued all during the winter of 1953 and 1954, were sharply increased as of 15 Feb 54.

2. As of 1 Mar 54 a commission of the Defense Ministry, headed by Col. Karel Baloun, took charge of the Zbrojovka factory at Vsetín, from which there are being shipped to North Korea and Vietminh the new models of mortars which were placed in production in 1952 at the Zbrojovka factory at Brno.

3. The Tatra factory at Studénka-Butovice sent an armored train to North Korea in March 1954, and another will be sent in May. The Koněv factory at Kladno is making dismountable armament for heavy tanks, which will be shipped to both North Korea and Vietminh, beginning in April 1954.

4. The Automovilové Závody factory at Mladá Boleslav has stopped preparations for the production of the light Spartak car because of the priority granted at the request of the Soviet Military Commission for Czechoslovak trucks for North Korea and Vietminh. Skoda trucks are being sent to North Korea in quantity. Motoechna sent five hundred Jawa 150 motorcycles to North Korea in March 1954. During the same period deliveries of the Jawa 250 motorcycle continued at a normal pace.

5. Certain factories, controlled until recently by Kovomat and Elektra, have been transferred to the Defense Ministry, and are working for North Korea. These factories are at Plzeň, Mnichovo Hradiste and Žilina, and they produced range-finding and radar equipment for artillery.

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