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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Position of the Ball-Bearing Industry	DATE DISTR.	13 September 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Very great efforts have been made in Czechoslovakia since 1948 to make the domestic production of ball bearings sufficient for the country's needs. This objective was more or less reached about two years ago. Up till then Czechoslovakia imported quantities of ball bearings 25X1

2. One of the main factors which brought about a virtually self-sufficient ball-bearing industry was the large-scale expansion of a small factory at Klasterec nad Ohri.[1] This factory produced textiles before the war; after the war new equipment was installed and it began a small production of small engineering products, including ball bearings. In recent years modern equipment, type and origin not known, was installed, and the factory went over to the manufacture of ball bearings on a large scale.

3. Special steel tubes for the manufacture of bearings are supplied to the works by the Gustav Kliment Pipe Rolling Mills in Chomutov. It is not known what quantities are supplied annually, but they are in any case not sufficient for the factory, since 500 tons a year of special steel tubes for the manufacture of bearings have to be imported These go exclusively to the factory at Klasterec nad Ohri. 25X1

4. The tubes supplied to the factory, Czechoslovak origin, are mostly in large sizes, i.e. from 100 to 200 millimeters. The majority of the bearings produced are ordered by the Ministry of National Defense. 25X1

1. Comment: The reference is to the Klasterec nad Ohri plant of the Lisen Precision Engineering Works near Ferstejn. 25X1

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