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[redacted]

50X1

REPORT NO. [redacted]

50X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 20 Oct. 53

SUBJECT 1. Popular Morale and Resistance to the Communist Regime
2. Relocation and Deportation

NO. OF PAGES 4

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DATE ACQUIRED [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted] 50X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[redacted]

1. RESISTANCE POTENTIAL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

a. Known Resistance Groups

50X1 [redacted] no active resistance groups. However, [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] the White Legion (Bila Legie) [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] operated in Slovakia as late as the fall of 1952. This
50X1 group delivered its anti-communistic messages via radio within
50X1 Czechoslovakia only. [redacted] it was made up of well-organized
50X1 personnel from all walks of life and that it moved all over
50X1 Slovakia in spreading its messages. [redacted] it was liquidated
50X1 in the fall of 1952. [redacted]
50X1

b. Organization of Resistance Groups

50X1 [redacted] no knowledge of the organization of such groups, their leaders, location, mission, number of members, activities, operations, financial support, supplies and equipment, cooperation or coordination with other resistance groups and chain of command.

c. Indications of Passive Resistance

50X1 [redacted] since 1950 [redacted] spread leaflets and
50X1 placards in Jicin /N 50-26, E 15-22/. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] The leaflets and placards contained anti-communistic
50X1 writings. [redacted] there were many persons doing
50X1 this in that city but was afraid to give any more information,
50X1 such as where the leaflets were printed, how they were distributed and such as names of other people involved, because of an ever-

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50X1 prevalent suspicious nature. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] communist officials and supporters rapidly removed or covered them when posted. Signs such as
50X1 "Down with Communism," [redacted] in Dolny Kubin /N 49-12, E 19-18/ in 1950, were quickly painted over. Other than having
50X1 placards posted or signs painted on it, public and government property was not defaced. [redacted] Catholic church attendance continued to be large, even though the regime disapproved this action. Complaints against the government were rarely heard because people were afraid to trust the next person.
50X1 One never knew whether or not the person to whom he was talking was a friend or enemy of the regime. [redacted] no further information regarding passive resistance.

d. Governmental Restrictions

50X1 Since people kept their feelings to themselves, [redacted] did not know
50X1 what government restrictions they most opposed. [redacted] cen-
50X1 sorship of mail going to foreign countries was greatly disliked. However, [redacted] mail within Czechoslovakia was not cen-
50X1 sored. [redacted] the army [redacted] was not affected by any
50X1 government restrictions other than mail censorship of letters going out of the country.

e. Popular Attitude Toward Present Government

50X1 [redacted] the regime in 1946-47 was much more popular with the people than at present. People were tired of its "big talk; little action" policy. They worked day and night, but still had nothing to show for it. Their morale was low as they were overworked, unhappy and suspicious of everyone. Many turned to alcoholic drink in an attempt to forget the life they were leading. Even social gatherings failed to make the people happy.

f. Indications of Communist Power

50X1 [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] communism was losing ground in Czecho-
50X1 slovakia. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] The communists had many supporters, following the end of World War II, but the trend has been continually downhill since 1947.

g. Open Resistance

50X1 [redacted] 80 per cent of the people would openly resist the regime if given the opportunity or if assured of support from without.

h. Anti-Semitism

He could give no specific instances of anti-Semitism.

i. Military Desertions

50X1 [redacted] could not give the number of military desertions which
50X1 had occurred, but [redacted] believed there were many. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] one unidentified man from the 3rd Tk. Div. being caught shortly before he defected. Chief reasons for military
50X1 desertions were [redacted] the hard life in the service,
50X1 political beliefs, fear of being accused of political unreliability and relatives living in the US.

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j. Civilian Disaffection

50X1 Though not knowing the number of civilians dissatisfied with the regime, many probably were because of the low state of morale.

k. Regime's Affect Upon Youth

50X1 Most youths, at least those over 14, are not sympathetic toward the present regime. the greatest success of the communist indoctrination program was within the 10 to 14 age bracket. 50X1 this was so because the youths would follow well-presented propaganda. However, if something better was offered them, they would turn to it instead. Older students did not like the regime, but they had to be careful in making remarks of a political nature as some of their schoolmates were children of regime supporters.

l. Relocation and Deportation

(1) Moving natives from one location to another was very common in Czechoslovakia. Most persons were moved from large cities to small villages to make room for workers, special- 50X1 ists and other people whom the regime wanted to place near 50X1 key spots for their particular occupation.

(2) Old people, unreliable persons and small families living in large homes were usually moved. The regime was interested in moving reliable workers and supporters to places where they were most needed. As a result, old and politically unreliable people had to move. If two people lived in a three-room apartment, they also had to move if a spot could not be obtained for, say, a worker and his family of four. Those who had to move usually ended up far from markets and from good transportation.

(3) The people disliked the relocation policy, but they were unable to do anything about it. They took their belongings and were relocated by furnished movers, paid by the regime.

m. (1) The regime always managed to quell displeasure within the populace by making promises. The people would listen and give in. The promises were fulfilled, but later were slowly revoked. An example was the recent money reform. Upset by its announcement, the people were quieted when they were told they would receive higher wages. After satisfying the people, the regime would require a greater output if the people wished to maintain the higher wage.

(2) Threats were made to use the Czech Army to subdue dis- 50X1 pleasure when it got out of hand. this 50X1 ruse would fail, because Czech troops would never fire upon their own countrymen.

(3) no information regarding morale or attitude of security forces toward the government.

n. Resistance Potential

50X1 85% of countrymen made up a resistance 50X1 potential 50X1 50X1

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o. **Resistance by Religious Groups**

50X1 [redacted] no cases of resistance by religious groups. However, [redacted] church attendance was small when a communistically inclined preacher delivered a sermon. Yet, upon the conclusion of the sermon, the church-goers turned up in great numbers to take part in the mass. That had been the trend ever since the regime brought in priests of its choice and replaced the ones formerly with them.

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