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PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

DIFFUSER-EQUIPPED HORIZONTAL TEST CELL AT PARDUBICE CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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DIFFUSER-EQUIPPED HORIZONTAL TEST CELL
AT PARDUBICE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. A diffuser was observed at the horizontal test cell at Pardubice Explosives and Solid Motor Development Production Plant . The presence of the diffuser, suggests that Czechoslovakian solid propellant technology is more advanced than previously suspected. In addition, more details of the test facility are available. The test cell was observed under construction in May 1967 and was completed by June 1969 A review of prior coverage, mostly of poor interpretability, indicates that the newly identified diffuser was present in August 1971

2. The Pardubice test facility (Figures 1 and 2) contains a horizontal test cell (item c) with a diffuser and a blast deflector. The visible portion of the straight-pipe diffuser extends from the test cell and is The distance from the end of the diffuser to the base of the blast deflector The C-shaped blast deflector is approximately and consists of 15 side-by-side, interconnecting panels, each The test cell is served by a narrow gauge rail line which leads from a probable checkout building (item a) and extends the entire distance of the blast apron to the base of the blast deflector. The line runs adjacent to the test cell and also enters it from the northwest and southeast sides. The rail line is probably used for transporting the rocket motors from the probable checkout building to the test cell.

3. In addition to the test cell the test facility contains a probable checkout building (item a), two test support buildings (items b and f), and two utility buildings (items d and e). The test cell, the probable checkout building, and one of the test support buildings are connected by overhead pipelines. Most of the buildings share a common service apron.

4. Two rocket motor test facilities have been identified in Czechoslovakia: the Dubnica nad Vahom Armament, Machine and Guided Missile Plant and the Pardubice plant. Czechoslovakia has had the technology necessary for solid propellant research and production and it is apparent that they now have the capability of static testing solid propellant rocket motors. The presence of the diffuser at Pardubice indicates that they also possess the technology required to simulate high altitude conditions. (Diffusers simulate altitude so that upper stage rocket motors can be static tested under near-vacuum conditions.) These developments suggest that Czechoslovakian solid propellant technology is more advanced than previously suspected.

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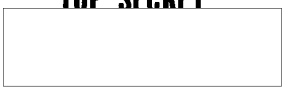

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