

CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 3 May 1955

SUBJECT Comments on the Position of Zapotocky, Siroky, and Cepicka

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Zapotocky and Siroky belong to the most reliable followers of the Kremlin who are suspected of defection. They gained the confidence of the Kremlin by their loyal working for the party. They are expected to resign only under a pressure of the international situation or because of advanced age, especially Zapotocky who is more than 70 years old.
2. The position of Cepicka is a different one. He had not been a Communist and joined the Communist Party in 1945 for reasons of opportunism. The fact that he married Gottwald's daughter made it possible for him to start on a unique political career and to gain Moscow's confidence by complete servility toward the party and Soviet instructors and thus remove General Svoboda, a staunch Communist, as defense minister, since Svoboda had failed to sovietize the Czech Army more rapidly. Once appointed as defense minister, Cepicka parted from Gottwald and was prepared to sacrifice his wife for his career. After the death of her mother she is generally believed not to have died a natural death. Her mother's death is generally believed only after the death of her mother did she again appear in public at the end of 1948.
3. Cepicka sovietized the Czech Army and is supported by the Soviet instructors and by those Czech officers who were employed either by himself or at his pressure and who make up the majority of the Czech officers' corps. He is not popular, however, with the enlisted personnel and with the Czech people. Next to Bacilek he is the most hated Czech Communist in Slovakia. He is not active presently as first deputy prime minister and would exercise these functions only in the event of a critical political situation. He enjoys certain sympathies with old-time Communists and Socialists.
4. Siroky who formerly pretended to be a Hungarian is hated in Slovakia. His old Communist friends in Slovakia blame him for having betrayed the Slovak Communist Party and for having joined the camp of the Prague Centralists. Siroky is also unpopular in Bohemia.
5. Zapotocky and Siroky distrust each other although they are supported by the same groups. They differed in the Lausmann case. While Zapotocky planned to make it possible for Lausmann to start political activity at once, Siroky, supported by Fierlinger, who considers Lausmann an undesirable competitor, was against this plan. Zapotocky and Siroky are united, however, in their hatred of Cepicka, whom they wish to liquidate. Secretary General Novotny and Bacilek, Secretary General of the Slovak Communist Party, are the next most powerful members in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in addition to Zapotocky and Siroky.

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ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All							

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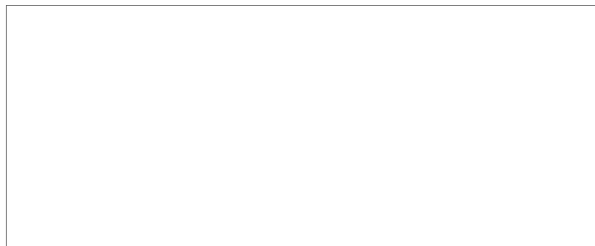


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[REDACTED] Comment. Since [REDACTED] president Zapotocky supported Lausmann, the former industry minister and [REDACTED] of the Socialists, Zapotocky would have lost prestige if a report that Lausmann was recently sentenced to twenty-five years in jail were confirmed. Other information also tended to indicate that Siroky and Novotny will be successful in their fight against Zapotocky.

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2. The position of Cepicka is a different one. He had not been a Communist and joined the Communist Party in 1945 for reasons of opportunism. The fact that he married Gottwald's daughter made it possible for him to start on a unique political career and to gain Moscow's confidence by complete servility toward the party and Soviet instructors and thus remove General Svoboda, a staunch Communist, as defense minister, since Svoboda had failed to sovietize the Czech Army more rapidly. Once appointed as defense minister, Cepicka parted from Gottwald and was prepared to sacrifice his wife for his career. After the death of her father, who is generally believed not to have died a natural death, she suffered from a persecution mania, and only after the death of her mother did she again appear in public at the end of 1954.
3. Cepicka sovietized the Czech Army and is supported by the Soviet instructors and by those Czech officers who were employed either by himself or at his pressure and who make up the majority of the Czech officers' corps. He is not popular, however, with the enlisted personnel and with the Czech people. Next to Bacilek he is the most hated Czech Communist in Slovakia. He is not active presently as first deputy prime minister and would exercise these functions only in the event of a critical political situation. He enjoys certain sympathies with old-time Communists and Socialists.
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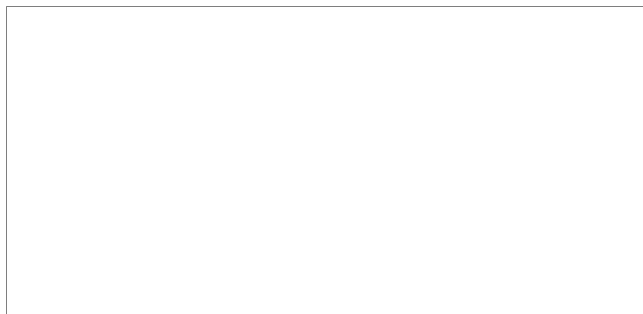


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