INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 1. In the distribution of American aid to flood-stricken areas, the local farmers' cooperative in Straze nad Myjavou (N 48-39, E 17-09) was allegedly to receive wheat, and independent farmers were also to receive aid in the form of grain. The relief amounted to several hundred kilograms of grain. The local inhabitants were very much surprised, as Straze lies some 75 kilometers from the actual flood-stricken area. The relief goods were allegedly being thus distributed to prevent grain surpluses in the stricken areas, because if the goods received from the United States had been distributed in those areas alone, the individual allotments would have been far larger than those needed under the Csech system of distribution. There were rumors to the effect that the American relief had been much larger than the actual damage to the crops. The Communist explanation was that the estimated amount of damage had included such items as buildings and equipment, and since the United States had sent relief only in the form of grain, the Czech' regime had therefore only given compensation for destroyed grain crops, and there was therefore a surplus of grain, which the Czechs distributed as they saw fit. The amount actually given to Straze, if any, was unknown
- 2. In general, the people had not at first believed that the Communists would accept American aid. Since the USSR did not offer its assistance, as was generally expected, the Communists were forced to accept. The people then joked, saying that the USSR, land of plenty which had everything under the sun, had not even given a thought to Czechoslovakia, and that capitalist America therefore had to help out again. Even those who did not receive anything were very happy at the gesture of the United States. The manner in which the grain was distributed in Czechoslovakia caused disappointment and bitterness at the abuse of the good will of the United States.

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3. In practice, the relief was divided as follows: the amount of surplus that each individual could have had after fulfilling his quota was worked out, and this amount was given to him in relief grain. That which each individual would, under normal circumstances, have turned in as his quota, was retained by the Communists from the American shipments and distributed to farmers' cooperatives which had not been afflicted.

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