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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Košice Field

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1. There is a new military airfield near the village of Barcza in the Košice district. It is southwest of Košice, on the Košice-Barcza-Zsebeš road. The field is surrounded by open meadows, with small groups of trees on three sides. It is known locally as the "new" airfield, since there is an older one south of Košice, which was a training field for the Hungarian Air Academy down to 1944.
2. The ground is very hard loam, partly covered with grass. A considerable amount of crushed rock has been rolled into the surface to improve drainage. The prevailing wind is from the northwest. There are no obstacles. The field is 3,500 by 1,600 m. The runway is of rolled crushed rock. There is a 45 m broad concrete tarmac in front of the hangars. A narrow gauge line connects the field with the Barcza railroad station. It is said that this line is to be made into normal gauge. The airfield is marked on all four sides with red electric lights, and night flying is possible.
3. There are three concrete hangars, each 35 by 80 m, with a capacity of 30 fighters; a repair shop, 25 by 50 m, equipped with modern machinery; two quarters barracks, each 15 by 50 m, three-storied; a three-story staff building, holding a radio station; a fuel depot.
4. A good deal of construction work is now going on, including new quarters building and a magazine. There are six underground gasoline tanks at the northeast corner of the field, each about 3 by 3 by 6 m. The normal storage is 60 tons, but a good deal of gasoline in drums stands in the open. Fuel comes from Košice south railroad station in tank cars.

LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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5. At the field are normally stationed the airfield command; one fighter company; an attack company; a company of ground personnel; a mechanical company; and a parachute company. The parachutists number 210 to 220. The ground company is over 100. The mechanical company numbers 105 to 110.
6. Planes include 10 YAK fighters, 6 Stormoviks and two transports for the parachutists. The auto park of the field consists of three passenger cars, five tank trucks and eight trucks.

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