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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1955

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NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SVAZARMGeneral Characteristics

1. [redacted] the Association for Cooperation with the Army (Svazarm - Svaz pro spolupraci s armadou) was introduced in Czechoslovakia in or about July 1952. Its purpose, he stated, was to educate its members in skills needed for defense of the homeland in the event of a war. 50X1
2. Prior to the introduction of Svazarm, various sport clubs existed in Czechoslovakia, such as the Czechoslovak Auto Club, Radio-telegraphers' Club, Dog Training Club, Carrier Pigeon Trainers' Club, and Glider Pilots' Club named Doslet (Voluntary Association of People's Aviation - Dobrovolny svaz lidoveho letectvy). In the summer of 1952 all such sports clubs and their property were nationalized and reorganized into Svazarm. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
3. Svazarm was a purely civilian organization and was not subordinate to the army. However, supplies, such as rifles, ammunition, grenades and the use of airbase facilities including runways and landing strips were contributed by the army. The regional Svazarm Secretariat supplied various individual glider clubs with material for repairs, parachutes, and glider tow ropes. Membership fee in the Svazarm Aero club was 200 crowns per year (old currency) and it was open to both sexes from age 16 on.

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4. The Svazarm Aero club had a national publication entitled "Kridla vlasti" (Wings of the Homeland) which was published bi-weekly.

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Non-Military Training

5. [redacted] the following non-military training was available through Svazarm: glider flying course, a radio-telegraphers' course, a parachutist course, a dog trainers' course, a pigeon handling course, and an automotive course. Normally, the various Svazarm course groups had their regular meeting places independent from other courses. Training was conducted at these meeting places.
6. Every course was headed by a committee which was subordinate to the district Svazarm secretariat. District secretariats were subordinate to regional centers which, in turn, were subordinate to the central Svazarm office in Prague. The country was divided into 10 Svazarm regions which, in turn, were sub-divided into districts. The instruction of each Svazarm section was conducted by one of its members and was performed as a patriotic duty. Instructors received no pay.

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Military Training by Clubs

7. Two types of military training were offered by the Svazarm clubs [redacted] and [redacted] this may also have been general for all Svazarm clubs in Czechoslovakia. These two types were pre-induction training and general training of all Svazarm club members regardless of previous military service. General training was compulsory for the members of source's Svazarm Aero club.
8. The Aero club regulations provided that all members had to take one-half hour of general military training before each glider flying practice period. Training itself consisted of close-order drill, preliminary instruction on rifle firing, and grenade throwing. Each training session was conducted by a club member who had completed his compulsory military training and was in the Army reserve. Each training period was devoted to only one subject. [redacted] further information on this type of training.
9. Pre-induction military training was given in a special branch of Svazarm called skoleni brance (recruit training). [redacted] pre-induction physical in Prerov (N 49-27, E 17-27) in October 1952 and at that time, those who passed the physical [redacted] were automatically assigned to this group. They were also encouraged to join a non-military Svazarm section of their choice, but this was not compulsory.
10. During the interval between the first pre-induction physical examination and actually reporting for active duty, [redacted] written invitation about once a month from [redacted] district military headquarters, stamped with a Svazarm seal, which read as follows: "Be present for the recruit training (skoleni brance) at 0800 hours at (location designated)". The skoleni brance given by Svazarm was always scheduled for Sunday mornings and was held in the local brewery, which had an adjoining large dance hall and a yard. [redacted]

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Uniforms and Insignia

11. [] no special uniforms were issued to Svazarm members in Prerov. Members received only a cloth insignia printed in several colors and elliptical in shape. It was worn over the left breast pocket on civilian clothes by members desiring to do so. For a detailed sketch of this insignia, see page 6 of this report. [] 50X1

Possible Svazarm Civil Defense Training

12. [] did not know whether or not Svazarm had any connection with any civil defense program, although [] there was a possibility of it because of the following incident. [] 50X1
- [] the rest center director, Vlastimil Strnad, who was about 55 years old and an ardent Communist, was appointed as a civil defense trustee by some authority unknown [] Strnad was scheduled to attend civil defense training sometime in the summer of 1954 at the Svazarm secretariat located in Uhersky Brod (N 49-02, E 17-39). However, because of an accident, Strnad was indisposed [] 50X1

LOCAL SVAZARM ACTIVITIES IN PREROV

Glider Flying Section

13. The Prerov glider flying course group had a club house located in a former restaurant where they held their weekly committee meetings as well as pre-flight instructions. The name of the former restaurant was Amerika, and it was a one-story stucco building approximately 15 x 8 m. The Svazarm Aero club, however, had rented only two rooms of this building, one of which, approximately four by three meters, was set aside as a storage room where nine parachutes and about six old army rifles, CZ Model 24, were kept. [] 50X1
- [] the Aero club received the items listed above from the Svazarm secretariat in Olomouc. The Prerov Svazarm Aero club also had two cars -- a Mercedes and a Hudson. These were used to take members to the local or neighboring airports and to the nearby mountains from where gliders were flown. [] 50X1
14. [] 50X1
- [] members of the club committee were elected once a year and that they served a one year term. [] 50X1
15. The Aero club was headed by Zdenek Zboril, approximate age 35, until October 1953. From October 1953 until the end of January 1954, it was led by Fritz (fnu), approximate age 35; and from the end of January 1954 until [] August 1954, Joseph Waiser, approximate age 37, was in charge. Aside from being in charge of the club, these men were also glider flying instructors at the same time, since they were veteran glider pilots. [] 50X1
16. [] 50X1
- [] regular training schedules were issued by the district secretariat, which prescribed various phases of training to be completed each month. Written monthly [] 50X1

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reports in compliance with such directives were submitted to the secretariat by member clubs.

17. Only 10 percent of the total membership of the Aero club was excused from such military training, according to the regulations then in force. In Prerov, the former Doslet (now Svazarm) members were included in this 10 percent and thereby avoided such training, which was disliked by all members. The former Doslet members, numbering about 15, constituted the backbone of the Prerov Aero club, since they not only instructed new members in glider flying but were members of the club committee as well. About seven of the former Doslet members who were between the ages of 23 and 35 had completed their compulsory military service; the rest were 18 years old.

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18. In order to assure themselves of continued glider flying and to avoid military drills, a campaign to increase membership was conducted by club members. The recruiting drive was organized by the man in charge of the club committee. Approximately 200 new members, average age 18 years, were signed up prior but, only 90 showed up to attend the pre-flight course. There were no female members in the Prerov Aero club.

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19. The pre-flight course lasted 40 weeks with four hours of instruction each week. This basic pre-flight course covered the following subjects: navigation, aerodynamics, theory of flight, and meteorology. Only upon completion of this course were new members permitted to start glider flying. However, out of the 90 members who started this course, only five completed it. The rest lost interest, dropped out, and were members on paper only.

20. The Prerov Aero club had an assigned hangar at the local Army airbase, where they stored six gliders. The club had one each of the following marks: Kmotr, Sohaj-25, Sohaj-125, Krajaneck, Gruno-Baby, and Gruno-Baby Iic.

21. The Army Air Force personnel of the Prerov airbase proved to be very cooperative with the local Svazarm Aero club. At Aero club monthly meetings, an Air Force major in charge of operations at Prerov airbase was always present while a schedule for glider flying was being discussed and set up.

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Paratroop Section

22. Due to the fact that members of the Paratroop Section frequently borrowed the Svazarm Aero club's parachutes

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23. The Parachute Section (or club) had about 30 members in all. Approximately 25 were boys and five were girls, all between the ages of 18 and 24. The chief (nacelnik) was Mik (fnu), a former Czech Army paratroop officer (rank, former assignment, and training unknown to source), now an inactive reservist. Members practiced their parachute jumping at an area set aside for that purpose, located about one kilometer from Prerov. () know the exact location of the training area. They had training twice a week which lasted the entire afternoon. They also participated in night marches and were armed with SMG's (types and models unknown). Preparatory exercises for parachute jumping lasted one year. For their airplane jumps they went to the Nove Sady civilian airport in Olomouc.

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50X1 The Svazarm Insigne

(sketch of approximate size)



Colors:

Overall background	-	white
Star	-	red
Czechoslovak coat of arms (the lion)	-	silver
Hammer and sickle	-	gold
Wreath of linden tree leaves	-	green

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