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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	1. Sale of Surplus Army Vehicles 2. Painting of CSAD Vehicles with OD Paint 3. New Uniforms for Railroad Employees	DATE DISTR.	21 June 1955 50X1
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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC					
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

50X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 27 May 1955

SUBJECT 1. Sale of Surplus Army Vehicles
 2. Painting of CSAD Vehicles with OD Paint
 3. New Uniforms for Railroad Employees

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Sale of Surplus Army Vehicles

1. Sometime in May 1953, the Czechoslovak Army put up for sale on the civilian market all of its old foreign-made vehicles such as GMs, Fords, and Bedfords. They were offered at relatively low prices.

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2. Some surplus Czechoslovak manufactured Army vehicles, such as Skoda-Tudor sedans and Java (250 cc.) motorcycles with over 100,000 km. on the speedometer, were also placed on the market. These surplus Army vehicles were sold preferably to members of the Border Guards, Communist Party members, and various national enterprises. [REDACTED] a Skoda-Tudor with 100,000 km. on the speedometer and in good condition priced at 6,000 crowns (old currency). [REDACTED] this car could have been re-sold for about 350,000 crowns (old currency). However, this car was to be sold only to Border Guard personnel for their personal use.

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4. [redacted] Czechoslovakia manufactured enough heavy motor vehicles to supply the armed forces with home-produced products; and since parts for vehicles of foreign manufacture were hard to obtain, the Army finally was permitted to sell such vehicles to civilians.

50X1 the only army vehicles [redacted] were of Czechoslovak manufacture, such as: Tatra 111, cargo 10-ton capacity, three axle (d.w.) trucks; Tatra 111, cargo, less than 10-ton capacity, two-axle trucks. 50X1 [redacted] also seen a new type of light truck of about two-ton capacity being used extensively only by the Army since the summer of 1953.¹ [redacted] some national enterprises, [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] also owned and operated Tatra 111, 50X1 three-axle (d.w.) trucks.

Painting of CSAD Vehicles with OD Paint

5. In the summer of 1953, [redacted] the CSAD (Ceskoslovenska automobilova doprava, n.p. -- Czechoslovak Automobile Transport, National Enterprise) in Prerov (N 49-27, E 17-27), drivers of this organization were informed without any explanation or reason that all CSAD trucks and buses were to be painted an OD color by the end of 1953. [redacted] 50X1 the vehicles of other national enterprises were also being painted with OD paint at about this time. The agency responsible for the order was not known [redacted] 50X1

New Uniforms for Railroad Employees

6. [redacted] after May 1954, Czechoslovak railroad employees began wearing new dark blue uniforms tailored in military style. Lower ranking employees wore light blue shoulderboards without any piping. Dark blue stripes worn on these shoulderboards were used to denote ranks. The shoulderboards of higher officials were silver in color. Gold metal stars, somewhat smaller than those worn by Army officers, were used to denote ranks of higher officials. [redacted] 50X1

7. The uniform also included visored caps of the same color and material as the rest of the uniform. The conventional rail-roader's winged wheel insignia made out of silver metal was worn on these caps. One exception was that the individual who gave the signal to the locomotive engineer to get the train into motion wore a visored cap made out of red material. Female railroad employees wore the same type of uniforms as males, including trousers, but some wore dark blue berets in lieu of visored caps. Blouse lapel flashes, also made of a light blue material, on which the winged wheel was superimposed, were worn by all ranks.

8. [redacted] 50X1

9. [redacted] not know whether the Czechoslovak railroads were under military control or whether employees had to participate in military training. [redacted] although they greeted each other with military salutes, this was not anything new, and did not necessarily indicate control or subordination to the Army, since such salutes were customary even prior to the Communist Coup in Czechoslovakia.

1. [redacted] 50X1

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