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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Iqla Needle Factory in Ceske Budejovice

NO. OF PAGES 1

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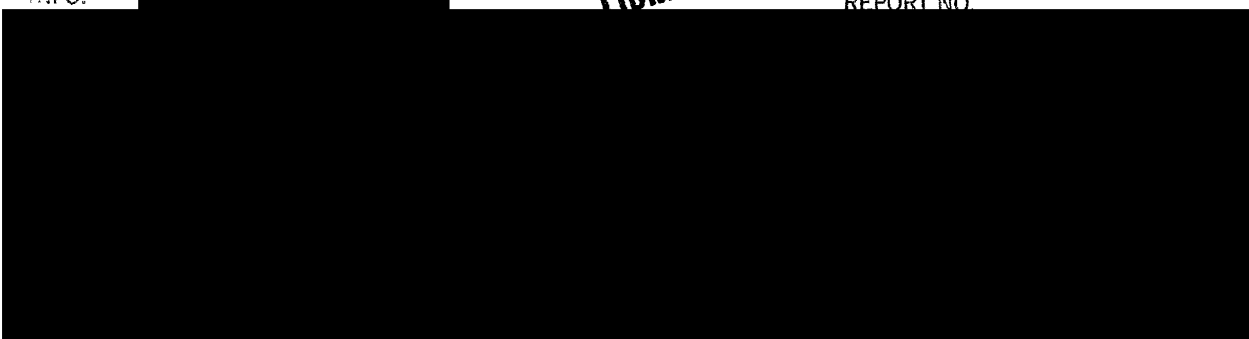
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



- The Iqla Needle Factory, national corporation, in Ceska Budejovice was formed in 1947 by the removal of needle-producing machinery from three small plants in Krasna Lipa and the establishment of the plant in the former Solo Match Factory buildings in Ceske Budejovice. The plant employs about 1,000 workers plus many part-time workers who pack needles in their homes. The Manager of the plant is one Kesner, anti-Communist in conviction; the Technical Manager is Tuzil, a fanatic Communist.
- Needles for domestic use are produced from inferior steel and are not nickel-plated, but only polished. The steel wire is not uniform in quality and the tempering oil is of inferior grade, with the result that the needles tend to rust quickly and are sometimes brittle and sometimes too soft. Even though the needles produced for export are manufactured from higher-grade steel wire and are nickel-plated, many shipments have been returned because of defects. In addition to sewing needles, needles for the cotton textile industry are produced as well as metal-head and glass-head pins.
- The plant has one old superheated steam boiler and one electric generator for emergency power. This equipment would be insufficient to operate the plant. Energy is supplied from the South Bohemian Electric Power Corporation in Ceske Budejovice. Production machinery in the plant includes the following:
 - Oil-fired and electric furnaces for heating the steel wire for tempering
 - Quenching tanks with a volume of about 800 liters
 - Automatic wire-cutting machines
 - Automatic milling machines for producing needle eyes
 - Grinding and polishing machines
 - Automatic machines for producing glass-head pins
 - Nickel-plating baths
- The most vulnerable part of the plant is the quenching vats in the main plant building which are in the same section with the oil furnaces. Damage to these units would cripple the plant for a considerable length of time.

Attachment: Sketch of the Iqla Needle Factory

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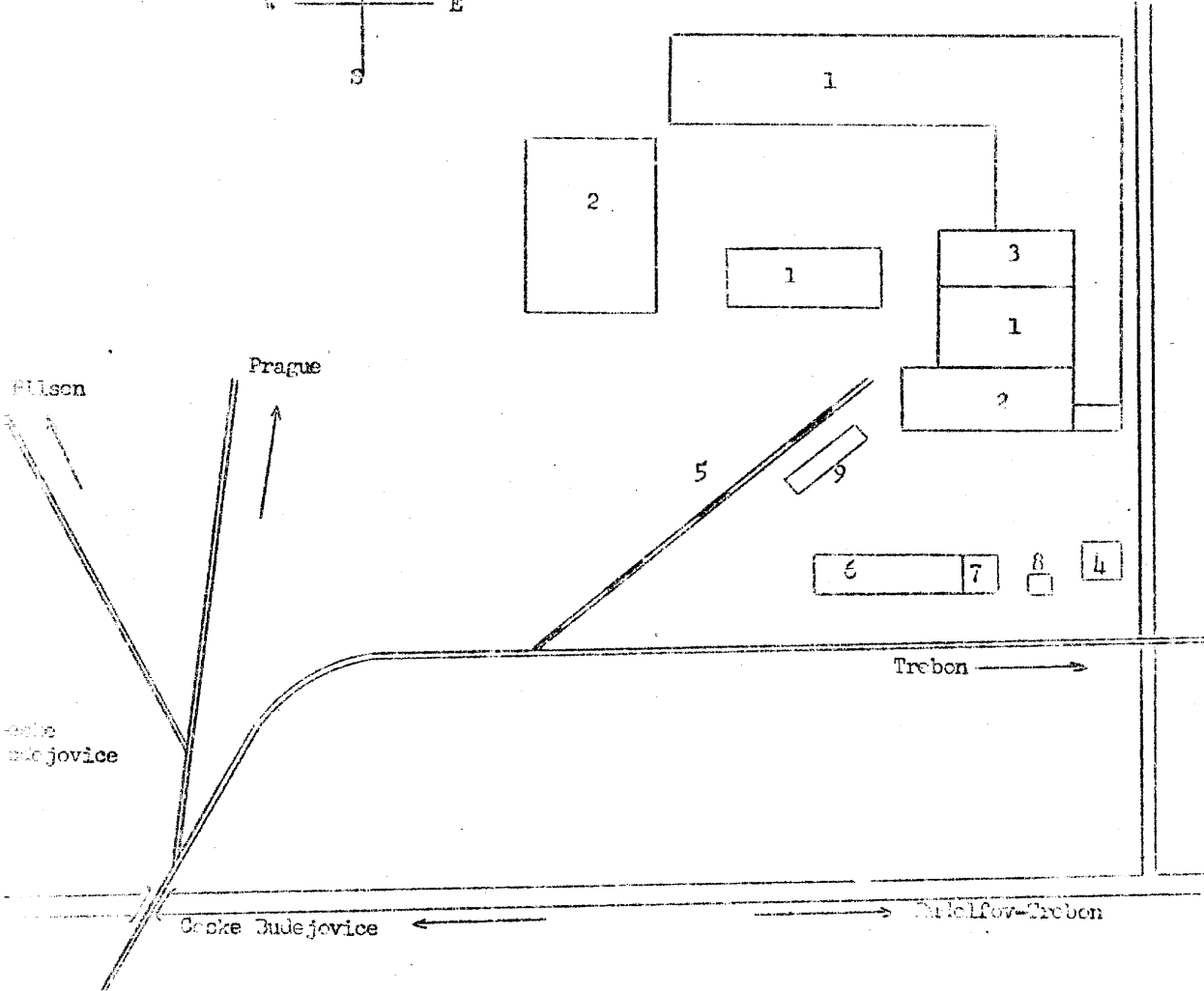
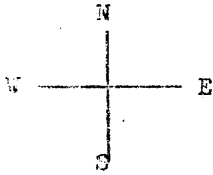
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ATTACHMENT

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Plan of Iglá Needle Factory, Ceske Budejovice



Key:

- 1. Production halls
- 2. Warehouse
- 3. Boiler house
- 4. Offices
- 5. Plant rail line
- 6. Garages
- 7. Workshops
- 8. Transformer
- 9. Coal supplies

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