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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 14 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Training of Czech Army Officers in the USSR;
Czech Maneuvers in the Lazne Kynzvar Area

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- Starting on 1 September 1951 an unknown number, rumored to be several hundred, Czech army officers will be sent to a special military school in the USSR. The group, which is said to be made up of completely reliable Communists, includes many Soviet Germans. Many of the officers have lived outside Czechoslovakia at some time. According to rumor, they are being sent to a "fifth column" school for training in sabotage and guerrilla tactics.
- Czech summer maneuvers during 1951 emphasize training in resistance to gas attacks. All troops in the Lazne Kynzvar (N51/P56) maneuver area have been provided with gas masks as have those in various military garrisons in the area.*
- The western border areas in the vicinity of Lazne Kynzvar and Karlovy Vary are occupied not by regular army troops but by what are believed to be special SNB detachments. Their uniforms are similar to the Czech army uniform, except that they have red and green uniform facings and epaulets with green borders.**
- The close scrutiny of the Czech army officer corps continues. Periodically, individual officers are summoned to battalion or regimental headquarters where they are screened by a special security tribunal which checks on their political orientation. Officers who do not meet the necessary ideological standards are discharged or, in the case of certain specialists, are assigned to secondary positions. All draftees are given a similar but less rigorous screening on entering the army. In some instances individuals who do not meet the required political standards are not taken into the army but are assigned to labor camps or labor details outside the regular camps.

* Comment: [redacted] unable to state whether this is a regional order primarily associated with the maneuvers or is an overall army order.

** Comment: The uniforms are those of the SNB. However, it is believed that the 13th Infantry Division still has its headquarters in Karlovy Vary.

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