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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [ ]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Czechoslovak Border Militia

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. During the first half of June 1948 the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior began organizing and activating the so-called Border Militia. This step was prompted by the mass escape from Czechoslovakia of politically active persons, by the fear of eventual sabotage acts and armed raids on the border region by ideological opponents of Communism, and by the fear of group infiltration of foreign intelligence agents.
2. The task of the Border Militia is to assist the SNB and customs officers in patrolling the border. They guard important objectives like industrial establishments (together with the 'Workers' Militia) and public buildings in a state of emergency, following the decision and directives of the district and regional security officers or SNB district and regional chiefs. In cases of urgency even the SNB station commanders are competent to issue orders and directives to the Border Militia.
3. In addition to this primary function, the members of the Border Militia are expected to report about persons of anti-Communist views, about the attitude of the people towards the Communist regime, about persons acting as guides or in other ways assisting in illegal border crossings, etc.
4. Units of the Border Militia are being set up in all districts in the border region. They are trained by and subordinated to SNB stations and other security organs. Within every SNB station precinct a Border Militia squad will be organized. (With- in every district under the command of an SNB district chief these squads will form a Border Militia troop. [ ] Comment: The unsatisfactory terms "squad" and "troop" of the translation are kept here, since the original Czech terms are not available.)
5. Members of the Border Militia wear civilian clothes. During duty hours they wear special insignia similar to those of the forest warders. They are armed with rifles of German origin which have been borrowed from the Army or furnished by the SNB.
6. Membership in the Border Militia is voluntary. Persons who volunteer for this service are screened by the local and district action committees and the competent organs of the SNB.

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7. By the end of June 1948 units of the Border Militia had been activated in the border districts in western Bohemia adjacent to the American Zone. The strength of the Border Militia troops varies from 400 to 1,200. For example, the strength of the troops in the Klatovy district is 1,150.

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