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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY

West Germany/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 25 November 1955

SUBJECT

Attempts to Break the Monopoly of CSPLO and Eberhardt Clemens in Hamburg

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1. Karel Brandejs, manager of the CSPLO (Czechoslovak Elbe-Oder Navigation Company) in Hamburg was in Czechoslovakia as of early September 1955, conferring with CSPLO officials about difficulties arising for the firm as a result of West German sovereignty. Hamburg shipping agencies, with the arrival of sovereignty, have filed complaints against Eberhardt Clemens G.m.b.H., Hamburg, claiming that that firm which is the only shipping agency in West Germany for rail or river transportation of goods exported or imported by Czechoslovakia, and which is in reality only a cover for the Czechoslovak shipping complex Metrans, has what amounts to a monopolistic connection with the CSPLO. Hamburg shipping agents are demanding the right to compete freely with the Clemens firm for CSPLO business, as was the condition before and during World War II.
2. In addition to this threat to the power position of the Clemens firm in West Germany, the monopolistic position of the CSPLO itself is on shaky grounds. German inland waterway firms themselves are demanding free development of Elbe River traffic and a chance to compete with the CSPLO along the Elbe River routes.

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