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# RAIL TRANSFER SITES AT ZAHONY, HUNGARY AND CHOP, USSR



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CIA/RR-HTA-M9-57

22 MARCH 1957

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**RAIL TRANSFER SITES AT  
ZAHONY, HUNGARY AND CHOP, USSR**

The rail transfer sites at Zahony in Hungary, and Chop in the USSR, and the rail transfer site at Cerna, Czechoslovakia described in Photographic Intelligence Memorandum CIA/RR-HTA-M8-57, are located within three miles of each other. All three sites have been expanded greatly since World War II and are major rail transloading points between the USSR and neighboring countries to the west.

The Zahony site, the only rail transfer site in Hungary, is located two miles southwest of the Chop transfer site and approximately three miles southeast of the Cerna transfer site.

A comparison of July 1956 aerial photography with that of February 1945 indicates that the Zahony site has been greatly expanded since World War II. In 1945 the site consisted of a six-track yard approximately 4800' long. A study of July 1956 photography shows that this transfer site is now 2.6 miles long, 700 feet wide, and composed of four separate but adjoining yards.

Construction activity is evident throughout the area. Concrete platforms are under construction, and filling and leveling operations are in progress for a probable future expansion of the yard.

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Tall floodlight towers located throughout the site indicate a capability for night operations. Mechanized equipment includes a large gantry crane and a lifting facility for the gage-conversion of passenger-car wheel assemblies.

The Chop site is located approximately two miles northeast of the Zahony transfer site and three miles east of the Cerna transfer site.

A study of July 1956 aerial photography indicates that this transfer site has increased approximately 50 percent in size since 1945. It is now approximately two and one-half miles long and 580' wide. Two new transloading yards have been constructed adjacent to, and east of, the original yards. New tracks connect these yards directly with the rail line leading north to Uzhgorod.

Wartime damage has been repaired, except for the roundhouse which is now approximately one-third its original size. Floodlight towers located throughout the site indicate a capability for night operations.

Small cranes and possible hydraulic lifting jacks have been reported at Chop, but the small scale of the photography precludes positive confirmation of these reports. The apparent lack of large mechanized equipment at this transfer site suggests that the heavy freight transloading and gage-conversion of wheel assemblies is accomplished at the nearby Cerna and Zahony transfer sites.

The major components of the Zahony and Chop transfer sites are identified on the accompanying annotated photographic mosaic.

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## KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

ZAHONY TRANSFER SITE

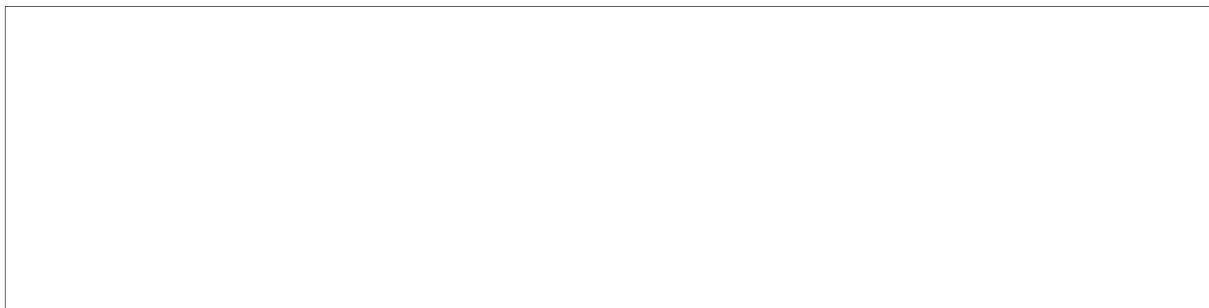
1. Choke point.
2. Freight transloading yard, 4700'x 475', 12-15 tracks. Includes two loading platforms, 575'x 30' and 725'x 25'.
3. Classification and transloading yard, 3500'x 640', 21-25 tracks.
4. Water tower, approx. 35' in diameter and 80' high.
5. Classification and transloading yard, 3700'x 475', 21-25 tracks. Includes a gantry crane serving 5 or 6 tracks.
6. Probable car repair shop, 200'x 70'.
7. Gage-changing facility for passenger cars, 120'x 35'.
8. Passenger station, 100'x 35', administration and storage building.
9. Classification and transloading yard, 4700'x 510', 26-30 tracks. Includes a small loading platform 100'x 50' with truck ramp at one end; an elevated structure approx. 575' long for unloading coal cars, and a loading platform 780'x 35' with 470'x 35' shed. An additional loading platform approx. 780'x 35' and a steel structure carrying overhead traveling cranes are reported to be located in this yard, but this cannot be confirmed from a study of this small scale photography.
10. Turntable, 90' diameter.
11. Engine repair shop, 200'x 100'.
12. Coaling tower.
13. Choke point.

CHOP TRANSFER SITE

14. Choke point
15. Warehouse, 230'x 50'.
16. Passenger station, 310'x 80'.
17. Classification and transloading yard, 3720'x 390', 20-24 tracks.
18. Turntable, approx. 80' in diameter.
19. Roundhouse, partially destroyed. Present capacity 7-8 locomotives, length of stall 90'.
20. Service yard, 1950'x 260', 9-12 tracks.
21. Transloading yard, 3000'x 520', 20-25 tracks. Includes warehouse 130'x 50' and two loading platforms, 1365'x 15' and 1170'x 35', with two sheds 310'x 35' and 330'x 35'.
22. Transloading yard, 4200'x 130', 6-8 tracks. Includes a raised platform 290'x 10' which appears to be elevated slightly higher than the top of a freight car.
23. Choke point.

REQUIREMENT: Prepared in answer to RR/HTA/E/R48/56 requesting information on the railroad yards at Zahony and Chop. Include length and width of yard, number of tracks, location and size of platforms, cranes, locomotive and car shed, and other facilities.

25X1



REFERENCES:

25X1

Target Mosaic: [redacted]

Maps:

World Aeronautical Chart 232.

Target Complex Chart [redacted]

AMS Series M671 Sheets W-16, W-17, X-16.

Other:

CIA Report No. [redacted] dated 21 Sept. 1956.

State Dept. Foreign Service Despatch, Budapest Nos. 311 and 390, dated 31 Dec. 1953 and 26 Feb. 1954.

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COORDINATES: Zahony 48°24'N - 22°11'E  
Chop 48°26'N - 22°13'E

25X1





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