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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Zdar Machine Shops and Foundries: Cutting Edge Research	DATE DISTR.	11 December 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Zdar Machine Shops and Foundries at Zdar, Moravia, are experimenting to find a substitute for the expensive vanadium alloy which is used in the manufacture of turning lathe tools. Czechoslovakia has been importing its entire supply of vanadium alloys from the USSR at 380 Kcs. per kilogram.¹
2. A ceramic compound, quarcilit (sic), is being tested as a vanadium steel substitute in Machinery Hall No. 4 of the Zdar plant. Quarcilit allegedly consists mainly of native quartz.
3. The new tool point made with quarcilit is rhomboidal and very light. It cuts glass almost better than a diamond, but difficulty has been encountered in attaching the quarcilit point to the steel bodies of the tools.

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1. Comment. Price cited is in terms of the Czech currency previous to the currency reform of June 1953.

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