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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. One of the missions of the AVH (Államvédelmi Hatóság - State Security Authority) is to secure and control the borders of the Hungarian People's Republic against enemies of the State, employing passport control and all other measures that this duty implies, and to defend the country against armed assault on the borders. The responsibility for this mission is exercised by Division IV (Főosztály) of the AVH, which is directly responsible for the organization and maintenance of the Border Guards (Határcserég), including the collection of tactical intelligence relative to the completion of its assigned mission. The personnel strength of Division IV is estimated at 8,000 to 9,000. (2) Although Major General László PIROS, Commanding General of the AVH and former Commander of Division IV, continued nominally in command of Division IV even after he was elevated to his present position following removal of Gábor PÉTER, Lt. Col. János SZALVA, previously PIROS' Chief of Staff, assumed active command as a result of the personnel changes caused by the January 1953 purge. In addition to a Commander, Division IV is provided with a Chief of Staff, a Soviet Adviser and AVH Interpreter, and presumably with a Secretariat. (3)

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STATE	*	ARMY	*	NAVY	*	AIR	*	FBI	*	AEC				
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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3. Division IV is a military organization, patterned on the Hungarian Army although totally independent of the Army, and thus has the usual pyramidal, military command structure common to all military services. Although the lower grades of NCO's and enlisted personnel are Army draftees who are assigned to Division IV at induction, the officers and higher grades of NCO's are career AVH men. (4) The following sections (osztály) are known to exist within the structure of Division IV, beside those elements of a purely military nature; this listing is not necessarily complete:

- a. Counter-intelligence Section - Tactical intelligence of the border areas for the purpose of insuring their security against illegal entry or exit.
- b. Military Operations Section - Direction of and planning border control and security.
- c. Political Section - Political indoctrination and education of the officers and men.
- d. Personnel Section - "Kadering" and the handling of related personnel matters.
- e. Registry Section - Maintenance of Division IV Agent and General Operational Registry.
- f. Supply Section - Distribution of all materiel, supplies, and funds.

4. The Counter-intelligence Section (Felderítő Osztály) has the primary duty of controlling the illegal border crosser movement by anticipating that movement through the detection of the channels used and the individuals involved. (5) Its activities are legally limited to the immediate border areas, although it does not always restrict its operations to the border areas and thus frequently comes into conflict with Division VIII (Positive Intelligence Operations) over operations involving illegal border crossers entering Hungary from the West. This section has three sub-sections (alosztály), and maintains CI detachments, numbering from five to twenty men dependent upon such factors as topography and incidence of illegal crossings, located within the installations of most of the Border Guard Troop Detachments. (6) Members of the Counter-intelligence Section may wear civilian clothes or Border Guard uniforms, although the former are usually preferred. The section is composed of the following sub-sections:

- a. Western Border Area Sub-section
- b. Southern Border Area Sub-section
- c. Adjacent "People's Democracies" Sub-section

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5. The control of illegal border-crossing is accomplished through CI Section recruitment of informer nets (hálok) composed of indigenous residents on both sides of the border, to a depth of 10 to 15 kilometers. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

6. Whenever an illegal border-crosser is apprehended by Division IV personnel, he is held by the CI Section and interrogated for about 24 hours. The CI Section is not concerned with the potential espionage or sabotage aspects inherent either in the illegal crosser's trip or in the detection of border-area residents assisting illegal border-crossers, nor actually in their apprehension; these are the responsibilities of the Division I personnel in the local Provincial Department. The CI Section interrogation is designed solely to enable the Border Guards to anticipate and thwart future illegal crossings through the same channels, and thus it is limited to determining such questions as the method, route, and place of crossing, assistance given to the illegal crosser, his purpose in crossing. Following the CI Section interrogation, the illegal border-crosser is handed over to the local Provincial Department, where he is interrogated by the Division VI (Investigation, Interrogation, Arrest, and Prison Maintenance) personnel in Section 6 of the Department, after which he will be turned over to personnel of Division I or Division VIII for exploitation, or simply jailed by Division VI as the case requires.

7. The Military Operations Section (Hadmueveleti Osztály) is responsible for planning and directing the control and security of the Hungarian borders. Included in the execution of this mission is the assignment of additional Border Guard troops to those areas where an increase in illegal border crossing or other illegal activity in border areas required them, and the laying and maintenance of physical border obstacles such as barbed wire, flares, mines, and plowed strips. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
8. The Political Section is responsible for the indoctrination and education of the officers and men of the Border Guard, and is presumed not to differ radically, if at all, from the organization of similar units throughout the rest of the military services.
9. The Personnel Section is primarily responsible for "kadering" Division IV personnel, and also for related personnel matters. (10) The members of this section are Division IV personnel, rather than Division V personnel, although this section is under the direction of Division V.
10. The Registry Section and its organization are completely unknown, beyond the

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fact that it exists, and that in a manner similar to Division VIII, Division IV maintains its own Registry distinct from the AVH Registry, Division III/3.

11. The Supply Section (Gazdasagi) performs the quartermaster function for Division IV, but also has the added responsibility of handling Division IV finances. The Supply Section has a Procurement and Liaison Team assigned to Division VII (Supply, Administrative Support, Housing) from which the Team obtains the necessary materiel, supplies, and funds, for the distribution of which this section is responsible.
12. Until approximately 1948, the Hungarian borders were manned by police known as the Border Police (Határ Rendőrség), who wore the same uniform as the civil police. The 1948 reorganization of the then AVO, resulting in many changes including one involving the change in title to AVH, led to the formation of the AVH Border Guards in late 1948 or early 1949, presumably by absorbing the majority of the former Border Police. During the transformation period, which lasted until the fall of 1949, the Border Guards were titled the Border, River, and Air Patrol (literally Surveillance) (Határ Folyam és Légi Rendészet). The brown uniform was adopted in the summer or fall of 1949, and Division IV of the AVH was then established in its present form in the fall of 1949. Its full official title has been since then the State Security (Defense) Border Guard High Command (Allamvédelmi Határorség Főparancsnokság).
13. The exact Border Guard troop disposition is unknown, although by the nature of their function they are necessarily stationed in the border areas. The following is a list of the locations where elements of the Border Guard are known to be established, and where possible the subordinate units are given; an effort has also been made to indicate the size of the unit where possible: [REDACTED]

Szeged

Szoereg
Kuebekháza
Gyala (on the Belgradi Mue ut,
close to the border)
Morahalom
Várostantya (about 2 km. outside
of the town in
Bokortanya)
Kelebia (about 200 meters from
the railroad station)

- [REDACTED] there are two battalions stationed at Szeged. The Szeged Border Guard Barracks are located on Nagyköerut between Kálvaria ut and Szentharomság ut, in the former "Hirados" Barracks. Each of the subordinate detachments has a strength of at least one platoon (36 men); some of them may be of greater strength. 50X1-HUM

Szombathely

Pornocapati (on the main road
in a two-story
building)

- [REDACTED] there are two battalions stationed at Szombathely, located in three to four-story buildings next to the hospital. [REDACTED] the one known sub-detachment strength is one platoon. 50X1-HUM

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Kiskunhalas

- Kiskunhalas is a regional or sectional headquarters, and [] there is a regiment stationed there.

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Sopron

Hubertus

- Sopron probably (sic) has at least a battalion, which is housed in five or six three-story buildings.

Csorna

- Csorna has a unit of unknown strength; it may be (sic) a battalion. The quarters are outside of the town on the road to Sopron in a three-story building.

Szob

- Szob has a unit of unknown strength; it may be (sic) a battalion. It is stationed in a former school on the main street of the town.

Vamosmikola

- Vamosmikola has a unit of unknown strength, which is quartered in an old castle.

Pécs

- no details known

Zalaegerszeg

- no details known

Gyöer

- no details known

Balassgyarmat

- no details known

14. The exact limits of the border zones is unknown, but they are estimated at approximately 15 kilometers along both the Austrian and Yugoslav borders. The southern, Yugoslav border is more strongly guarded than is the western, Austrian border. The greatest concentration of guard troops is between Baja and Szeged, where there are no river or other natural obstacles. On the western border, there is a known border-zone pass (határsáv igazolvány) check point on the rail line north-west from Gyöer to Hegyeshalom, probably east of Mosonmagyaróvár, and another between Kapuvár and Feroeszentmiklos on the highway and rail line leading west from Gyöer to Sopron. [] On the southern border, there is a known road barrier and check point on the highway leading due south from Baja toward Nagybaracska, two-thirds km. south of Baja, and there is another on the Baja to Szeged highway just west of Csalvoly; still another is known between Tompa and Kiskunhalas on the north-south highway lying about halfway between Baja and Szeged. The Czech border is lightly guarded. Only if a person appears to be heading directly for the border is he likely to be challenged for a document check by these guards.

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15. Border-zone passes are issued by the local police upon personal application; the AVH has no part in it, although Division IV is solely responsible for the documentation control throughout the border zones. A temporary border-zone pass is issued by the police in the inland city of origin for the border-zone city of destination explicitly. [] The temporary pass is honored by the border-zone authorities inasmuch as possession of it is a guarantee attesting to the political reliability of the bearer by his local police. Ordinarily any business, family, or personal reason is sufficient justification, so long as the requestor does not belong to a politically unreliable classification. (14) Permanent border-zone residence is acquired through personal application to the local police of the border city involved, on the authority of a temporary border pass issued by the police of the inland city of origin (who, as noted, necessarily have passed on the individual's reliability in order to have issued the pass, and to some degree on the justification for the change of residence). Sufficient justification must also be presented to the border-zone city police at the time of application; a particularly valid reason would be new employment which was to the advantage of the government, especially from the national security point of view. (15) Such a justification as the requestor's desire to move near his family might or might not be favorably accepted, depending on many factors including the family's reliability, family conditions, and similar issues. Although acceptable justification is variable in each individual case, persons with the stigma of having been Kulaks, former SS and army officers, or "reactionaries", all of whom have been vigorously removed as permanent residents to inland sites, would naturally never be able to provide justification which would be acceptable even to permit them to obtain a temporary pass. 50X1-HUM

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- (2) [] Comment: [] estimated [] overall AVH strength at about 20,000; in addition to the 8,000 to 9,000 assigned to the Border Guards, there are approximately 6,000 engaged in intelligence collection and support (Division VIII, III, VII and Unit X/3, presumably), and about 5,000 in internal security (Divisions I, II, V, VI, IX and X, presumably).
- (3) [] Comment: It is likely a Soviet Adviser is assigned to the various lower echelons of Division IV, especially to the Counter-intelligence Section; this is, however, an assumption, not substantiated by specific knowledge. 50X1-HUM
- (4) [] Comment: An AVH officer sits on the induction board, which each fall, during the draft period of two to three weeks, determines each inductee's future assignment as to branch of service. It is at this time that the new enlisted personnel for the Military Divisions IV and IX are chosen. The exact procedure which determines that a specific inductee is to be assigned to Division IV is unknown, but the major criterion in selecting a draftee for service in the Border Guards is believed to be his political reliability and background. 50X1-HUM

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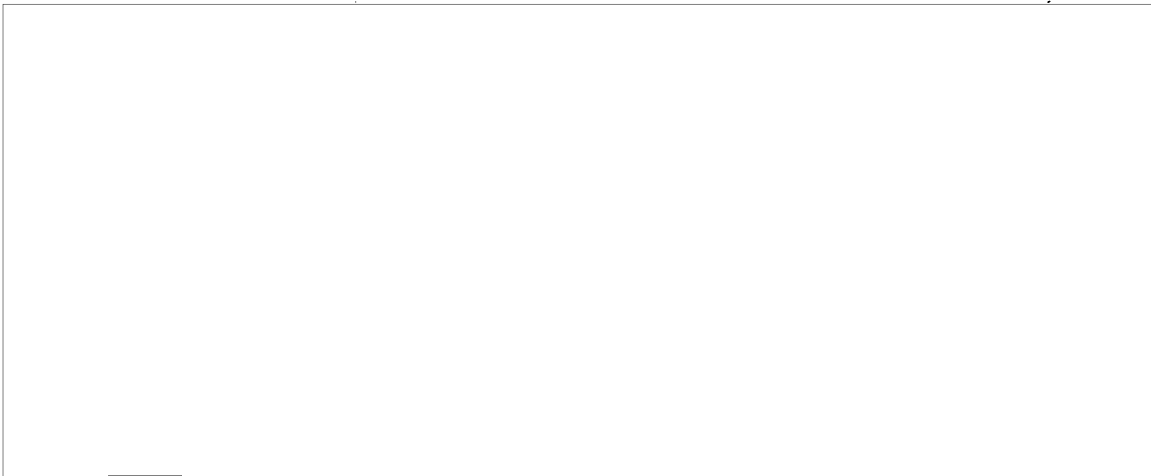
(5) [redacted] Comment: The internal security of Division IV, however, is the responsibility of Division II (Military Counter-intelligence). 50X1-HUM

(6) [redacted] Comment: The following CI Detachments are known [redacted] 50X1-HUM

- Csorna
- Sopron
- Szob
- Szombathely

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[redacted] Comment: The Border Guard command lines are totally independent of all other AVH channels. The troop detachments, and all specialized personnel of Division IV attached to these detachments, are physically separate from the Provincial Departments, maintaining their own offices and quarters. They also only report to and receive orders from their own Headquarters Division, and are in no way subject to the command of the Provincial Department chiefs. Close liaison is normally maintained between the two, however. 50X1-HUM

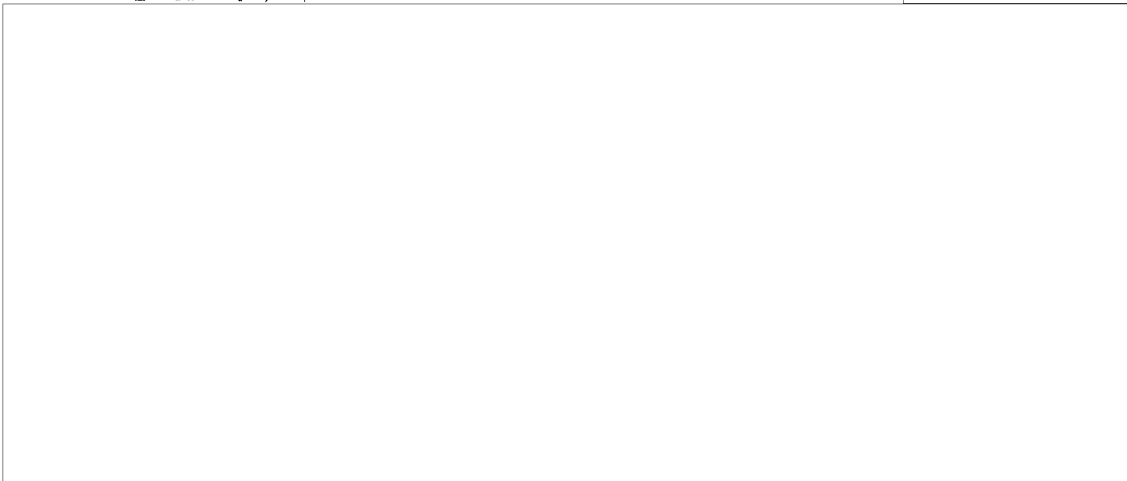



(10) [redacted] Comment: [redacted] a Personnel Section [redacted] must exist here, and in the other Military Divisions of the AVH, since "kadering" is an essential for all other AVH career personnel. The presence of a special section to handle Division V matters would be justified on the grounds of the size of the Military Divisions, and their somewhat different functional nature. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

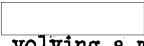


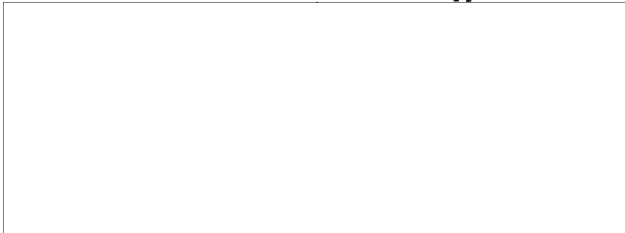
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(14)  Comment: If business is given, the applicant would have a statement from his employer indicating his destination and duration of stay. In the case of frequent travellers, the applicant may have a more or less permanent statement from his employer; truck drivers have trip tickets issued by their dispatchers. It is unknown whether these trip tickets are revalidated or re-issued for each trip.

(15)  Comment: The documentation procedures for a change of residence involving a move into a border zone appear to be normal in all other respects. 50X1-HUM



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