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REPORT

SUBJECT Telephone Systems in Slovakia

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as it is in the whole Czechoslovakia. It was caused by overloading due to establishing of separate telephone exchanges for the KSS, the State Security and for the Army. Although the KSS, the State Security, and the Army have their own telephone switchboards they do not, however, have their own lines, but are using the postal lines (cables). No new lines were planned for 1956, nor for the future years to ease up the traffic on the postal lines. The overloaded postal cables are being supplemented by high-frequency systems, i.e., that one line can carry simultaneously six connections. Because many of the newly laid cables have faulty insulation frequent short circuits are occurring especially in winter. Thus it happens that one short circuited line in fact eliminates six connections. There is also a great shortage of cables which is supplemented by hurriedly built overhead wire system, often done by inexperienced labor and thus resulting in further number of lines put out of order.

2. New postal underground cables were embedded in 1954 and 1955 only in Eastern Slovakia to serve the telecommunication with the USSR. The cables lead from the Kosice Post Office, Rumanova street toward the USSR.

A new cable for Bratislava - Brno - Prague was to be laid in 1956, but it probably will be embedded only in 1957. The existing main postal cable leads along the state border and in case of a conflict only the branch line through Zilina and Ostrava could be used. The planned new cable is supposed to lead nearby Senica in the direction to Skalica, and into Moravia through Veseli (formerly through Breclav).

3. Postal Telephone Exchanges and Amplifying Stations: The local and out-of-town switchboards as well as teleprinter is located at the old Post Office Building, at Bratislava, on Stalin Square. Since 1954 an underground shelter was under construction below the Post Office building where a special switchboard is installed for long-distance communications which connects the switchboards of the KSS, StB, and the Army. Another amplifying and out-of-town switchboards were built in Trnava, below the Commercial School building. This switchboard is in use as of February 1955, and has 1,000 telephone apparatus, 16 so-called long distance boards - each board for six lines. From Trnava the main cable leads to Zilina - Poprad - Kosice, and another one from Trnava - Trencin - Banska Bystrice. Other out-of-town switchboards and amplifying stations are in Zilina, Trencin, and Banska Bystrice.

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4. Non-Postal Exchanges:

- a) Communist Party - the secretariat of the Slovak Communist Party at Bratislava, Hluboha cesta, (former Grain Company building) has its own telephone exchange for both local and out-of-town service. The out-of-town system is the so-called MB (i.e. induction caused by turning a handle) which is connected with all regional and district secretariats. By this system calls can be made through postal lines without danger of being overheard by the post office staff.
- b) State Security - they also have their own exchange in Bratislava, Radcanska street in the StB building. The exchange is for local and out-of-town calls. The local is automatic for 1,000 lines switchboard; the out-of-town MB switchboard is connected with all the regional and district offices of the StB. These lines are also used - by arrangement with the StB - by the SNB.
- c) The Army - the Army has not its own telephone exchange in Bratislava; the nearest larger switchboard is in Trnava. The exchange in Trnava is solely used by the Army. It has 100 local lines, two state postal lines and ten military direct long-distance lines to Bratislava, Malacky, Senica, Topolcany, Trencin, Levice and four other larger towns in Slovakia. In Trencin is the main telephone switchboard of the 2nd Military District, which is also on postal cables - as the Army has not its own cables.

5. Importance of Individual Exchanges:

- a) The advantage of a separate switchboard is that each body can manipulate local or long-distance calls without the interference from Post Office. However, as the separate exchanges are dependent on the postal cables their use is in case of any damage to the postal cable worthless.
- b) The KSS, the StB, and the Army have at their main exchanges radio transmitters so that if a stoppage does occur a wireless contact can be established.
- c) The Post Office, however, does not have transmitters.
- d) Tapping is possible only on the networks but not at the Post Office. That means, that the possibility of listening in has the maintenance staff only.
- e) The Army, the StB and the KSS have their own maintenance personnel and telephone operators.

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