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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Tesla National Corporation plants performed almost all Czechoslovak industrial production in the fields of weak current, radio technique, electronics, electric bulbs, and in a few other fields, such as that of air techniques (production, for instance, of pneumatic conveyors.) The only exception was production of electrotherapeutic devices, which was performed by the Chirana National Corporation. This production too was formerly carried on in Tesla plants, but it was placed in the newly created Chirana plants in the second half of 1948 and in the first half of 1949. (Chirana National Corporation plants produced all kinds of medical apparatus and instruments.) I believe that Czechoslovakia produced the same type equipment in these fields as Western countries, but not the same variety or quantity of it. However, radar may be an exception. I do not know whether there was any research on radar or production of radar equipment in Czechoslovakia. If radar was produced there, I believe that Tesla-Strasnice National Corporation, Josef Haken Plant, in Prague-Strasnice, would be the most suitable factory for such production.
2. Some of the Tesla plants were organized as main plants, and others were organized as branch plants subordinate to the main plants. The independent Tesla plants (main plants) were subordinate to the Ministry of General Machinery; but I do not know to what main administration of the Ministry. There was no administrative relation whatsoever between the individual Tesla plants. The Chirana plants were similarly organized in main and branch plants

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and I believe that the Chirana plants were also subordinate to the Ministry of General Machinery.

3. Czechoslovak research and development in the fields listed above was originally performed by individual Tesla and Chirana enterprises. Starting from 1951, research and development was placed in various research institutes which had no administrative relation to the individual plants for mass production. The Tesla enterprises produced products both for civilian and military purposes. However, I believe that the Czechoslovak Army itself carried on research and development, as well as some small-scale production for military purposes, in various military research institutes.
4. The first Tesla National Corporation plant was created at the beginning of 1946 by nationalization of privately owned enterprises. However, not all the enterprises of this type were nationalized; small plants remained in private hands until the so-called Second Nationalization after the Communist coup d'etat in February 1948 and in some cases until the beginning of 1950. I do not know the exact origin of the name Tesla, but most probably it was derived from the words: low-voltage technique (Technika Slaboprouda). Originally (prior to 1948) the Tesla plants were individually called, for example, Tesla, Weak Current and Radio Techniques Plants, National Corporation, Hloubetin Plant, and address. The present type of name which has been used since 1948 was Tesla National Corporation, and address, or Tesla - Holesovice, National Corporation, Main Plant Holesovice, and address. The individual Tesla plants were originally subordinate to the Tesla National Corporation General Management (until 1948 the name of this General Management was Tesla, Weak Current and Radio Techniques Plants, National Corporation, General Management; it was located in Prague II, Karlovo Square, 7; the former Phillips building). The Tesla General Management was subordinate to the Ministry of Precision Machinery, later on (I do not know when) renamed and reorganized as the Ministry of General Machinery.
5. The Tesla National Corporation General Management set up a uniform internal organization of the individual Tesla plants. It set up a system of contacts between individual Tesla plants on one side and other Czechoslovak enterprises on the other. Finally, the Tesla General Management set up a system of contacts between individual Tesla plants. The Tesla General Management handled all matters for the individual Tesla plants which were of common interest to all the plants. The Tesla General Management had all the normal departments which were usual for Czechoslovak national corporations of that type. However, I would like to point out the following departments of the Tesla General Management:
  - a. Personnel Department - dealing with administration officers and technicians for all the individual Tesla plants and setting up salaries and wages for all employees of Tesla plants.
  - b. Welfare Department
  - 50X1 c. Department for Standards A report dealing with standards used by the Tesla plants will cover the activities of this Department.
  - d. Documentary Department
  - e. Publicity Department
  - f. Department for Organization
  - g. Central Purchasing Department
  - h. Central Sales Department

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1. Central Storage for Products of all Tesla Plants
- j. Print Shop

Ing. ELICER was General Manager of the Tesla General Management. He was about 35 years old, a Communist Party member and a convinced Communist. He was not experienced enough for such a high position. He was transferred, I think, in 1948 to some other place but I do not know where. Ing. GAJDA was Vice Manager and became General Manager after ELICER was transferred. He was about 50 years old, a Communist Party member and a convinced Communist. He was transferred to the Ministry of Precision Machinery after the Tesla General Management was liquidated.

6. A decentralization of Tesla was carried on in the second half of 1948 and completed in the second half of 1949. Some of the Tesla plants were reorganized as main plants and other Tesla plants were subordinated to them as their branch plants. The Tesla General Management was liquidated and the main Tesla plants became directly subordinate to the then Ministry of Precision Machinery. All matters which formerly had been handled by the Tesla General Management were taken over by the individual Tesla plants (main plants) and handled independently by each of them. (The activities formerly handled independently by the Tesla General Management were, in no cases, taken over by the Ministry of Precision Machinery as might be thought.) I believe that this entire decentralization of the Tesla "Concern" had the only advantage that some red tape was eliminated. But this decentralization - and this I consider a great disadvantage - cut off the development of a uniform internal organization of Tesla plants. The Tesla plants were relatively young enterprises without tradition and of various origin. The most important Tesla plants were former factories with licensed production only (Phillips, Telefunken, Osram) and therefore did not have certain important departments such as a design department or an organization department. The general result was that the organization of individual Tesla plants was poor and continued to be poor. Under such circumstances the program for developing a uniform organization of individual plants was highly reasonable.
7. The following is a list of individual Tesla and Chirana plants and of research institutes concerned with the same type of production. I believe that this list is about 99% complete for Bohemia and about 90% complete for Moravia and Slovakia.

#### Tesla Plants

- a. Tesla - National Corporation, Julius Fucik Works, Prague IX - Hloubetin, Podebradska Street 186. Transmitters for civilian broadcasts, for jamming stations, and for military purposes were produced here. This was the former Phillips firm. After 1946, it became Tesla-Hloubetin I, National Corporation, and produced radio receivers. Production of transmitters started here in 1951; this production was transferred to this plant from the then Tesla-Vrsovice plant.
- b. Tesla, National Corporation, Julius Fucik Works, Vrsovice Plant, Prague XIII-Vrsovice, SNB Alley 55. Transmitter and special electronic tubes of medium and high power were produced here. This was the former Radioslavia firm. In 1948 it became Tesla-Vrsovice, and in the second half of 1951 it was subordinated to the Tesla-Hloubetin plant.
- c. Tesla-Roznov, National Corporation Roznov pod Radhostem N 49-28, E 18-087. Receiver electronic tubes and some

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types of special electronic tubes were produced here. This had been the former Phillips firm in Prague-Hloubetin, since 1946 known as Tesla-Hloubetin II. In 1949 and 1950 it was transferred to Roznov pod Radhostem along with the Tesla-Holesovice Plant (the former Telefunken firm) for the production of receiver electronic tubes.

- d. Tesla-Roznov, National Corporation, Plant 3 Elstroj Prague XIII-Vrsovice, Samova 8. Single-purpose electric machines and equipment for the production of electronic tubes were produced here. It was a new plant started in 1949.
- e. Tesla-Roznov, National Corporation, Zizkov Plant Prague XI-Zizkov, Husitska 36. Most probably wires, mainly of tungsten and molybdenum, were produced at this plant. This was a new line of production for this plant; this new production started in 1948.
- f. Tesla-Vrchlabi, National Corporation, Vrchlabi  $\sqrt{N}$  50-38, E 15-367. Receiver electronic tubes were produced here. This was the former Lorenz firm; since 1946 it has been known under its present name. (It is possible that the Tesla-Vrchlabi plant was subordinated in 1953 to the Tesla-Roznov plant as its Branch Plant 2.)
- g. Tesla-Holesovice, National Corporation, Main Plant Holesovice, Prague-Holesovice, Jankovcova 15. Electric light bulbs were produced at this plant. This was the former Osram firm; since 1946 it has been known under its present name. In 1948 the plant was united with Elektra, the division for production of electric light bulbs, which had been located in the Tesla-Hloubetin plant.
- h. Tesla-Holesovice, National Corporation Holesovice Plant - U. Pruhonu. Fluorescent light bulbs were produced at this plant. This was a new line of production which started in 1948.
- i. Tesla-Karlin, National Corporation, Main Plant (The plant had another name as well, but I cannot remember it.) Prague X-Karlin, Sokblovska 84. Production in the field of low-voltage current industry (telephones, switchboards, etc.) was carried out at this plant. This was the former Siemens firm; it has been known under its present name since 1946.
- j. Tesla-Karlin, National Corporation Prague X-Karlin, Pobrezni 46. I believe that production of panel switchboards and of local broadcast equipment was located at this plant. I do not know the history of this plant.
- k. Tesla-Strasnice, National Corporation, Josef Haken Works Prague-Strasnice, 800. This plant, the former Mikrofona, Knotek Brothers firm, produced telecommunications equipment.
- l. Tesla-Pardubice, National Corporation Pardubice. I know that this plant produced nuclear counters. I do not know what else it produced. This is the former Telegrafia firm; it has been known under its present name since 1946.
- m. Tesla-Lanskroun, National Corporation Lanskroun  $\sqrt{N}$  49-55, E 16-377. Most probably radio receivers and radio receiver parts were produced at this plant.
- n. I believe that there were two Tesla plants in Brno. One plant was for the production of radio receivers (it was the former Iron Firm combined with another firm of which I do

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not know the name) and the second Tesla plant produced electric light bulbs. (This was probably the former Edison firm in Brno-Komarov.)

- o. I believe that there was a Tesla plant in Valasske Mezirici N 49-28, E 17-587, which probably produced radio receivers.
- p. Tesla-Bratislava, National Corporation Bratislava. I think that this plant was engaged in the production of electric light bulbs. It was probably the former Tungstram firm.

#### Chirana Plants

- a. Chirana, National Corporation, Branch Plant 12, Modrany, N 50-01, E 14-257, Chodska 477. Production of X-ray tubes and X-ray apparatus. This was the former Vinopalove Brothers firm; it was nationalized probably in 1948.
- b. Chirana, National Corporation, Branch Plant 16 Prague II., Stepanska 7. Production and repair of sun lamps were located at this plant. (However, the production did not include burners, which were produced by the Tesla-Roznov plant)
- c. Chirana, National Corporation, Sezemice Branch Plant Sezemice N 50-04, E 15-517. Production of short-wave diathermy was located at this plant. Until 1948 this was the Tesla-Sezemice plant.

#### Research Institutes

- a. Research Institute for Vacuum Techniques and for Technology of Parts Prague IX. - Hloubetin, Nademlynska 600 and Prague IX. - Hloubetin, Podebradska 184. For the activities and history of this Institute see report number [redacted]
- b. A. S. Popov Research Institute for Communications Techniques Branch Laboratories in Prague-Strasnice were located as follows: (1) No. 800, on a street I do not remember the name of; (2) Trebohosticka 987; and, (3) Strancicka 1334. The Laboratory located at No. 800 was the former Mikroфона, Knotek Brothers firm; from 1946 it had been the Tesla-Strasnice plant, and from 1951 the Research Institute. (The Institute was located in a part only of the former Mikroфона firm.) I do not know the history of the other two branch laboratories.
- c. Research Institute for Electrotechnical Physics (Vyzkumny ustav pro elektrotechnickou fysiku) Prague II., Karlovo Square 7. Although I do not know all the activities of this Institute, I do know that it was engaged in the development of GMT-tubes (GMT-tubes were used to determine cosmic and atomic radiation. GMT means Geiger-Mueller tubes.) These tubes were used in the production of nuclear counters for the Jachymov uranium mines. This was the former Phillips firm building; from 1946 to 1949 it had been used by the Tesla General Management; - the Institute has been located there since 1951.

1. [redacted] Comment: Since September 1953 they have been subordinate to the Ministry of Machinery.

2. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] any of the street numbers of the plants in this list. He has filled in those numbers that are supplied here by reference to the Prague telephone book for 1952.

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