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50X1

SUBJECT 1. Restrictions on Possession of Radios  
2. Amateur Radio Communications

DATE OF INFORMATION

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

Restrictions on Possession of Radios and Listening to Foreign Broadcasts

1. There were no restrictions on the possession of radio sets in Czechoslovakia. Anyone could go to an Elektro-Radio, National Enterprise, store and purchase a radio. Children up to 14 or 15 years of age were questioned as to the consent of their parents if buying a radio, but this rarely happened since older persons were usually present at such times. An unmarried person could buy a radio. After the radio was selected, the salesman tested the set and the radio was paid for and taken home. Payment was always made in cash. Questions as to where the customer obtained money to buy the radio were never asked. The salesman never asked if the customer had a radio since the old set did not have to be turned in. No identity documents were required. There were no restrictions as to who could install a radio.
2. Radios were permitted in the border zones. Conditions there were the same as elsewhere in the country.
3.  radio sets, radio spare parts, and radio repair service were available only at the local Electro-Radio store. Receivers were not limited to any particular band spread although most sets were equipped for medium, long, and short-wave reception. A small number of sets for medium and long-wave reception only were sold; a very small number were made for medium-wave only.

**SECRET**

SECRET INFORMATION

SECRET  
-2-

50X1

4. [redacted] any case where a person was punished for listening to foreign broadcasts. Group listening, as well as spreading what one heard, was forbidden and regarded as "anti-state activity". Under the law covering such violations, a minimum penalty of five months and a maximum of three years imprisonment were provided for, depending on the seriousness of the crime. The decision rested with the court.

#### Amateur Radio Communications

5. Every amateur radio operator was under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Posts which granted all permits. There was no organization to supervise activities of amateur operators on town, district, or regional levels. Amateurs themselves were required to report unregistered radio transmitters directly to the Ministry of Posts. There was a section within the Ministry of Posts which maintained continuous monitoring service to detect illegal and unregistered radio transmitters.
6. Before becoming an authorized amateur radio operator, one was subjected to a test at the Ministry of Posts in Prague. During the test, each person was shown two pages of paper on which appeared all call signs, wave lengths, and names and addresses of registered amateur radio operators. When the test was passed, each man was allowed to take the two pages with him for his own use. The wave lengths listed for each operator were based on the power of the person's transmitter and were assigned by the Ministry of Posts. The call signs to be used by each operator were also assigned by the Ministry. Amateur radio operators in Bohemia used the prefix OK 1 in their call signs; those in Moravia used the prefix OK 2; those in Slovakia used OK 3. [redacted]
7. Amateur monitors were assigned either four, five, or six-digit numbers for identification by the Ministry of Posts. There were no letters in their designations, and they differed for all of Czechoslovakia; there was no differentiation for Bohemia, Moravia, or Slovakia. These amateur monitors listened to transmissions of amateur operators and reported to the Ministry of Posts. They reported the data on regular "QSL cards", which were about the size of a penny postcard. The data reported included the frequency of transmission, type of monitoring set and type of antenna used, mailing address of the monitor, date and time of reception, call sign of the station, and strength of reception (1 by 1, 2 by 2, etc.).
8. Radio amateurs identified themselves by their assigned call signs. Whenever an operator's call sign was changed or abolished, all other operators were notified by mail by the Ministry of Posts. This happened very rarely, however, since such changes took place only when a radio amateur gave up his station, or its operation was discontinued by the Ministry of Posts for some reason. In the few instances when this happened, all other operators were informed that the call sign would be discontinued until further notice. Reasons were never given; the person in question simply "discontinued radio amateur transmissions". The call sign of a discontinued station was never assigned to someone else.
9. Traffic between radio amateurs included "conversation" on how well each was being heard (1 by 1, 2 by 2, etc.); the kind of antenna and set used by each, and weather at each location. Usually a time was set for their next transmission. There were no instructions on subjects to be discussed during such traffic but it was made clear to all operators that information on political affairs, locations of industrial installations, and other related classified matters, would not be broadcast.

50X1

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

50X1

10. [redacted] every registered radio amateur operator had a list of the names, addresses, call signs, and wave lengths of every other registered radio amateur, given to him by the Ministry of Posts.

11. Names and addresses of all registered amateur radio operators were available at the Ministry of Posts in Prague, but this information was available to registered radio operators only. The monthly publication of the Czechoslovak radio amateurs' organization (CRA - Ceskoslovensky Radio Amater), Radio Amater, contained a list of the call signs of all registered radio amateurs. Although the call signs were published each month, only on certain occasions did the magazine publish names and addresses of amateur operators. This was in connection with competitive projects among amateurs when announcing winners, etc. Up until about 1949, the magazine was available at most newsstands, but since that time it has been sent only to registered radio amateurs.
12. Two documents were necessary to operate a registered amateur radio station: a simple permit issued by the Ministry of Posts authorizing the operation of an amateur radio station, and a license, which served as a registration of the equipment and specified the type of station the holder was allowed to operate. Licenses were issued in three classes: Class I for transmitters with a power of 5 to 30 w.; Class II for transmitters with a power of 30 to 50 w.; Class III for transmitters with a power of 50 to 100 w. Most radio amateurs used a 30-watt transmitter; others used transmitters with a power as low as five watts or as high as 100 w., but there were very few of these two types. Almost all amateurs constructed their own stations of parts salvaged from old German equipment.
13. A person became a registered amateur radio operator by first performing six months of steady monitoring under the supervision of the local amateurs' group after which time he became eligible for the tests in Prague given at the Ministry of Posts. The test included written and oral questions on basic electrotechnology (elektrotechnologie), radio technics (radiotechnika), receiving and sending Morse code, and the Q code. If the test was passed satisfactorily, the person was issued a permit and a license and was given the two pages listing all registered amateur radio operators.
14. The Ministry of Posts was in charge of direction-finding equipment for detecting illegal radio transmitters.

50X1

[redacted] a section within the Ministry of Posts was responsible for this activity. It seemed to be common knowledge to many Prague citizens that one such direction finder was located on the top of Petrin Hill in Prague III-Mala Strana.

[redacted] mobile direction finders were being used, [redacted] no idea to what extent such units were operating.

50X1

SECRET

50X1

50X1