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REPORT

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PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Before World War II, under Czechoslovak rule, there was no prison in Mukachevo. People from the Mukachevo region who had been sentenced to prison terms were sent to prison in Uzhgorod /N 48-38, E 22-19/; they were few. When Soviet succeeded Czechoslovak control of the area, the number of persons sentenced to prison terms in the Mukachevo region increased to such an extent that there was a need to set up a special prison in Mukachevo. For this purpose the old Czechoslovak Army barracks on the western outskirts of the city was taken over as a prison able to accommodate 5,000 people. This prison was used not only for the Mukachevo Rayon but also for some adjoining rayons. From 1945 on there were always an average of 4,000 convicts in this prison, of whom at any one time at least 1,000 were from the Mukachevo region.
2. It would be wrong to assume that crime in the Carpatho-Ukraine had increased with the establishment of the Soviet regime. On the contrary, the number of murders and robberies considerably decreased under the new order. This was not because of any merit of the Communist system, but rather as a result of the new economic and security conditions created in the country:
 - a. Before World War II the standard of living in the Carpatho-Ukraine had been very high. There had been many national and local holidays, harvest festivities, etc., where people used to drink a great deal of homemade plum brandy and start fights in which quite often some people were killed;
 - b. The police force under Czechoslovak rule was very small. There were practically no guards keeping watch over warehouses, large stores, or industrial enterprises. Recently the militia had been large and strong, and practically all warehouses, government stores, offices, plants, and factories were guarded either by armed militia or civilian guards. As a result of this fact, it had

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become quite difficult to carry out a robbery and the number of robberies had considerably diminished.

3. Although [redacted] the number of murders committed under the influence of liquor had decreased, [redacted] until 1948-1949 there were quite a number of political killings in the Carpatho-Ukraine. Usually the perpetrators of these crimes were never discovered, and the blame was placed on Ukrainian nationalist partisans. [redacted] a case in 1947 when a high Soviet functionary was attacked and killed at night on his way to L'vov by car through the Carpathian Mountains. The same year the president of the rayon soviet in Irshava (30 km. southeast of Mukachevo) was killed in a restaurant in the daytime. A number of killings took place in villages during the collectivization campaign. 25X1
4. Incidents of theft and pickpocketing had skyrocketed compared to former times. The standard of living in the country had become very low [redacted] and this had led some people who would never before have thought of violating the law to commit some petty crime. 25X1
5. The Soviet system brought with it new types of crime hitherto unheard of in the Carpatho-Ukraine. They were:
- Misappropriation and mismanagement of state property;
 - Political crimes; and
 - Speculation and black marketing [redacted] 25X1
- Within these three categories of law violations fell about 90% of the sentences handed down by the courts in the Carpatho-Ukraine from 1945 to 1952.
6. The vast Soviet administrative system required a large number of state officials whose only qualifications, at least initially, were political reliability and proletarian ancestors. Entrusted with government funds and property, these people were very often guilty of mismanagement and even outright misappropriation of funds and property. Low-ranking Soviet employees and workers especially had no regard for government property. To them the term "government property" meant "nobody's property". "If I don't take it, somebody else will", was the reasoning one frequently heard. According to Soviet law, mismanagement and misappropriation of state property was punishable by up to 10 years in a corrective labor camp. Connected with sabotage, the same crimes were punishable with sentences of up to 25 years.
7. There were many political crimes of all types in the Carpatho-Ukraine [redacted] break them down into four main groups: 25X1
- Political crimes having to do with individuals' former activity during the Czechoslovak rule or during World War II;
 - Objection to and open criticism of the regime;
 - Lagging in production and failure to meet production plans, with no criminal intent;
 - Economic and industrial sabotage.
8. Criticism of the regime, which was quite widespread, when testified to by witnesses in court, brought sentences of up to 10 years in a corrective labor camp. Anti-state activity proved by compromising material found in a defendant's possession was punishable by sentences of up to 25 years. Most often, however, these crimes were

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reported by denouncers who were MGB or MVD agents or activists who, of course, did not appear in court to testify. In such cases, when the defendant did not plead guilty, he was detained in prison while investigation continued. Investigation included searches of the defendant's office and apartment; if nothing incriminating was discovered, evidence was usually planted anyway, and the person was sentenced for its having been "discovered in his possession". In order to give more credence to the results of such searches, normally carried out by the militia, local authorities such as the kolkhozy president would be invited to accompany the search party. In the presence of these neutral people, the compromising material was just as easily planted, and often the neutrals were even led to discover it.

9. Absenteeism, lagging in production, and failure to meet production and work norms, when not connected with sabotage, was punishable by several years of corrective labor camp. Here, of course, just as everywhere, the political standing and activity of the individual concerned played a predominant part in the severity of the sentence, which in the case of a reliable Party member, might be completely waived.
10. The most nebulous crime (dealt with in the most arbitrary way) was that of economic and industrial sabotage. Breakdown of a machine or of a truck, an accident, or even a mishap due to natural causes could be construed at any time by the courts as sabotage and be punished by up to 20 years of corrective labor camp. All political crimes, in addition to sentences of imprisonment, resulted in the confiscation of the defendant's property. 25X1
11. The low standard of living and variations in prices from market to market led many people to indulge in speculation and black marketing. Because of the risks, less lucrative projects were not undertaken; the punishment for black market activity or speculation was up to seven years in corrective labor camp. 25X1
12. Inmates of the Mukachevo prison were those who were either transient inmates or who had been sentenced to up to three years of corrective labor camp. They worked under guard during the daytime in various industrial enterprises in and around Mukachevo, and in the evening they were brought back to prison. [redacted]
13. Out of 1,000 convicts from the Mukachevo region in the prison, [redacted] they could be grouped by their crimes as follows:
 - a. Premeditated murder - 2 or 3 25X1
 - b. Unpremeditated murder - 5
 - c. Armed robbery - 10
 - d. Theft and pickpocketing - 100
 - e. Misappropriation - 500 25X1
 - f. Speculation and black marketing - 200
 - g. Political crimes of all types - 200
14. There was no corrective labor camp in the territory of the Carpathian Oblast. Usually prisoners with sentences of more than three years were sent either to the eastern Ukraine or to Siberia.

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