

INFORMATION REPORT
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1. Skoda Works, Pilsen

- a. The works are at present employing over 50,000 workers. Production includes tanks of the Soviet Stalin type as well as some smaller ones, copies of the American Jeep which are fitted with an air-cooled Tatra engine, and artillery and naval guns for the Soviet fleet. These guns are sent to the big trial grounds at Mehren, near the town of Beraun (Beroun) on the German frontier.
- b. The post-war Skoda cars have caused some disappointment by their poor design and workmanship. This applies particularly to the springing. In addition owing to the absence of any allocation for spare parts manufacture in the first Czech two-year-plan, many cars have been off the road for long periods. The latest Skoda Minor is a sturdier car which underwent trials in Finland beyond the Arctic Circle. There is, however, still room for improvement in its design.

2. Tatra Works

The two Tatra works concentrating on two-and three-axle trucks are Ringhofer Tatra at Prague and Koprivnice (Nesselsdorf). Total production from the two Tatra Works amounts to 250 vehicles per day.*

3. Bata Footwear Works, Zlin**

About 30,000 workers are at present employed in the works. Of these, about 7,000 are in an armed defense corps (Werkschutz).

4. The Glass Industry

The industry is organized into two groups.

- a. Cechoglas: This group handles all quality glass (Edelglas) production.
- b. Duta: This group handles glass production for general needs (Gebrauchsglas).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ONLY

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5. The Chemical Industry

- a. The State Chemical Trust is concerned over the qualities of paints, enamels, and lacquers. Efforts are being made to investigate such American methods of inspection and testing as specific gravity and electrical resistance tests. At present the Czech manufacturers rely on empirical methods for evolving paints and enamels.
- b. A new paint research and experimental station has been set up, but is suffering from lack of equipment. It is hoped to be able to obtain details of the latest American equipment for reproduction in Czechoslovakia.
- c. The sulphuric acid industry is also suffering from lack of modern equipment and is one of the more serious bottle-necks in the present industrial development. Such plants as exist are working three shifts per day. The Soviets have promised some new equipment under the recent Soviet-Czech Agreement, but the Czechs are doubtful about obtaining early delivery.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: This production figure appears improbable.

25X1A6a** Washington Comment: Bata was renamed Svit and Zlin was renamed Gottwaldov in January 1949.

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