

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Central Office

The Nationalized Arms Industry in Czechoslovakia (Zbrojovka, narodni podnik) consists of many factories, some of which have been nationalized for some considerable time and some of which were nationalized between 1945 and 1948. Before the war the arms concern was the "Tschechoslovakische Waffenwerke A.G." (Ceskoslovenska Zbrojovka, ack. spol.), in which the State held a 50 percent interest. The only present factory which belonged to this old concern is the one in Brno-Zabrdovice. In 1944 the Germans built the "Ostmärkische Flugmotorwerke" in Misen, near Brno, to the north-west of the Olomouc road, and after the war this factory was incorporated into the present concern. Other factories were also incorporated after the war, including arms and ammunition factories built by the Germans. The Central Office of the whole concern is in Brno-Zabrdovice, u. Lazaretu 7, and is on the banks of the River Svitava, opposite the Brno-Zidenice railway station. The main door is on the street "u. Lazaretu", exactly opposite the tower of the Zabrdovice church and the military hospital. There is a railway line from the building to Zidenice station; thus it is also easily recognizable from the air. A third offshoot of the nationalized concern in Brno is in the Cejl Gasse.

2. Personnel of the Combine in Zabrdovice

- a. General Director: Ing. Jaromir Mach, Kralovo Pole, Mecirova 36. Tel. 51.234 - 271 (a Czech).
- b. Chairman of the Trade Union and Works Council: Ludvik Blosarek, Brno-Zidenice, Skrochaova 32.
- c. Legal Adviser: JU Dr. Arnost Vrabc, Brno-Zabovresky, Kroftova 13.
- d. Head of Personnel: Karel Jaro, Brno, Habmannova 57.
- e. Security Manager: Frantisek Mauser, Brno, Sedlakova 29.
- f. Production Manager: Ludvik Sonnenwend
- g. Technical Director: Alois Kucera

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h. Purchasing Manager: Rudolf Medek

9. Factories belonging to the Combine

The names of all the factories which belong to the Combine are not known, but the following are some of them:

- a. Jasenice, near Vsetin (Moravia) - produces weapons, particularly heavy weapons, cannons, and 12.8 mm machine-guns.
- b. Jablunka, near Vsetin (Moravia) - produces ammunition.
- c. Bohuslavice on the Vlara (a stretch of the Brno-Vlara Pass) - produces bombs and artillery ammunition.
- d. Bojkovice on the Vlara (a stretch of the Brno-Vlara Pass) - produces special ammunition, "alarm" rockets, etc.
- e. Uhersky Brod on the Vlara stretch - produces machine-guns.
- f. Vlasim (Bohemia) - produces detonators for ammunition and for explosive charges.
- g. Holysov (exact position unknown) - produces motorcycles.
- h. Strasnice and Musle, parts of Prague, with factories whose production is unknown.
- i. Kvasini, exact position and production unknown.
- j. Brodec - produces motorcycles.
- k. Rakovnik (Western Bohemia) - produces bicycles
- l. Vrchlabi (Northern Bohemia) - production unknown.

It is not quite certain whether the arms factory in Strakonice (Western Bohemia) and the munitions factory in Policka (Eastern Bohemia) belong to the Combine or not.

10. Organization of the Combine

- a. There are 11 production sections of the combine, as follows:
 - 1) Machine-gun section
 - 2) Gun section
 - 3) Typewriter section
 - 4) Bicycle section
 - 5) Motorcycle section
 - 6) Textile machine section
 - 7) Machine section
 - 8) Carpentry
 - 9) Tractor section
 - 10) Automobile section
 - 11) Kitchen equipment and weighing-machine section

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- b. It is not known whether all these sections are in Zabrdovice, but it is assumed that some of them are elsewhere, since for instance, the factory in Lisen has the following sections:
- 1) Ball-bearing and roller-bearing section
 - 2) Textile machine section
 - 3) Tractor section
 - 4) Section for heavy weapons and mortars (still under construction)
- c. Possibly some of the sections are subdivided. The head of the factory at Lisen is Ing. Bohumil Dvorak, and other leading personalities there are Ing. Antonin Dvoracek, Ing. Cenek Grimela, Ing. Emil Pflieger and Disponent Antonin Skala.
- d. Administrative sections in Zabrdovice
- 1) Controlling section of the Combine
 - 2) Administrative
 - 3) Production
 - 4) Chief personnel section
 - 5) Chief technical section
 - 6) Office technical section
 - 7) Control of the economy of the combine
 - 8) Central purchasing section
 - 9) Central control section
 - 10) Central security
- e. The central building of the combine has its own railway line to Zidenice station and owns two locomotives.
- f. The majority of the factory equipment is home-produced, only a few processing machines bearing mark "Index". After the German occupation many machines of German origin were left behind and have been incorporated with the other machines.

The Workers

Before the second World War the factory in Zabrdovice employed 11,000 workers; now 9,000 work there, of whom 1,000 are officials. The factory on the Cejl Gasse now employs 750 workers, and that in Lisen about 2,500. These figures are not definite, but they represent a minimum, and the number of workers may in fact be considerably greater. There are some reports that there are 3,500 workers in Lisen, and even some which put the number as high as 7,000. There are no guards. There are no houses for the workers either within the factory grounds or outside, but some are now being built on the Drobny Gasse in Nove Gernovice.

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6. Working Conditions

- a. The work is divided into three shifts, each of 48 hours a week. The officials work in two shifts.
- b. The work is done mainly on conveyor belts, but the workers are paid on a piece-work basis. All the work is done by machines, and the equipment is at present being used to 56 percent of its capacity. Some products, e.g. sewing machines and tractors, are constructed entirely on conveyor belts, others partly on conveyor belts and partly in individual component belts, and a plan for this has been worked out, copies of which are held by the technical director and by the works council. There is very little waste in this plant.

7. Production

- a. At the end of the war, products were guns, machine-guns, and other weapons, and MP 44 machine-pistols. The production figures for that time are not known.
- b. Present products are: small arms, pistols, machine guns, machine-pistols, probably mortars or their component parts, typewriters, sewing machines, bicycles, motor cycles, cars, tractors, processing machines, textile machines, ball bearings and roller bearings, ammunition of all types, rockets, kitchen equipment, weighing machines, etc. It is not certain whether cannons are being produced, but if they are, it is either in Jablunka or in Jasenice, near Vsetin, or both.
- c. Production plans are not known. It is certain that the Polish armies are being supplied with Czech equipment.
- d. It is not known how far the Two Year Plan is being carried out, but in the factory at Lisen production of ball bearings is 30 percent of that laid down in the Plan, and production on machinery 90 percent.
- e. At the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party, the number of hours of unpaid overtime work to be done by workers in all industrial concerns was discussed. The figure laid down for the workers in Lisen was 3,100 hours.

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8. Electric Power Supply

The electricity supply is drawn from the grid of the Western Moravian Electric Works.

9. Raw Materials and Half-finished Products

These are supplied by the Vitkovicke zelezarny (Witkowitz Eisenwerke - Vitkovic Iron Works) the Poldina huta (Poldi Hütte) and the Kralovopolska strojirna (Königsfelder Maschinenwerke, i.e. the Gottwaldwerke). Various component parts come from abroad. In the main factory in Zabrdovice there is a commission, consisting of the Production Director, Sonnenwend, the Technical Director, Kucera, and the Purchasing Manager, Medek, which lays down the procedure for purchases from abroad (component parts and substitutes). This commission also decides the number of component parts to be produced in the factories, thus again regulating the number which have to be imported.

10. Finished Goods

The finished products are delivered by rail, by air, by post, and by road. They are marked "Z Made in Czechoslovakia".

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11. Factory Guards and Controls

- a. The allowance for security control in the Combine's 1949 budget has been raised by 30 percent because of bad relations among the workers. The number of factory guards has increased, and they were armed with guns and pistols, and some with machine-guns. The training of the factory guards is carried out regularly under the supervision of army instructors.
- b. At the gate there are several porters in uniform and some factory guards with pistols.
- c. Controls among the workers are carried out by so-called "Zehner" and by the factory guards.
- d. There are regular controls at the gate and spasmodic controls in the factory.
- e. Checks are kept by clocking-in apparatus.
- f. Night watches are kept by the factory guards, who are reinforced by reliable Communists who have been members of the Party since before 1945.
- g. Regular rounds are made of the factory as a whole, and special watch is kept on special parts of it.

12. Passes

A pass with a photograph is necessary to enter the factory. These passes are issued by the Security Section when a worker's contract has been signed. The passes, once issued, are never altered. It is almost impossible to obtain a "bianco-pass" (sic).

13. Russians in the Factories

There are some Russians in the factories, but it is difficult to discover their names and functions, since little is known of them. In Lisen there is a Russian Colonel who is the assistant to the factory manager, but his exact activities are not known.

14. The Factories outside Brno

The following details are known of some of the factories outside Brno:

- a. Bohuslavice: the factory is on a stretch of the Brno-Vlára Pass near the town of Bohuslavice, in the Uherský Brod district. Building was started on it in 1938, and it was completed by the Germans, who started arms production there in 1943. During the war all types of munitions were produced there, in particular bombs and artillery ammunition. Explosive charges of from 0.75 to 3 kg and SD-1 grenades were also produced, and the number of workers at that time was about 2,000. After the war ferro-concrete buildings were enlarged and multiplied, and they now number about seventy. These buildings are hidden in three valleys in the forest, but production will not begin until the autumn of 1949. In March 1949 there were only about 200 builders and twenty to thirty machinists employed on preparatory work, but it is estimated that when the work really begins in the autumn, about 4,000 workers will be employed. The factory has its own underground oil tanks (capacity unknown). It is connected by road and rail with the ammunition

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dump in Vlachovice, which covers an area of about 200 hectares, and is very well hidden in the forest. It consists of sixty ferro-concrete buildings and 20 wooden buildings and dwellings which are apart from the other buildings. The dump stores ammunition from all types of factories throughout Czechoslovakia. The foundry and the separate buildings are very closely guarded. Sentries are provided from the Guard Section of the Slavcin SNB, and these are reinforced by civilian guards with dogs. The wire fence round the dump has notices "Beware, live wire". The Bohuslavice factory is connected with the dump at Vlachovice by an underground passage.

- b. Bojkovice on the Vlara: the factory is constructed similarly to the factory at Bohuslavice, but is of smaller dimensions. It is situated in two valleys in the forest and is camouflaged. In one valley, rockets, lighting rockets and "Alarme" rockets are produced, while the other is devoted to "Delaboration" (?) and a dump. Apart from this dump, the finished goods are also stored in numerous scattered bunkers. Component parts are produced by the pyrotechnical section of the factory.
- c. Uhersky Brod: the arms factory is in the western part of the town in the Havrice district, and consists of five or six workshops, which are camouflaged in various colors. It produces machine guns.
- d. Vlasim (Bohemia): this factory produces detonators for ammunition. The number of workers now employed is not known, but during the war the factory employed 5,000.

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