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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. []

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

FLD 154

DATE DISTR.

6 Feb. 1950

NO. OF PAGES

2

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT AAA Practice in Malacky
25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED []

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1 DATE OF INFO. []

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[]

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1. Antiaircraft firing practice was observed at the MALACKY (P 49/s 82) artillery range from June to August 1949.
2. Sleeve targets, about 7 feet long, consisting of linen-covered light metal frames and towed by Siebel aircraft, * were fired at by 37 and 88-mm AA guns and by 1" machine guns of heavy caliber. The target-towing planes flew as low as 150 to 300 feet and as high as 6,500 feet. The score was considered satisfactory. The target was missed only about ten times out of 150 approaches. Toward the end of the firing practice, riflemen practiced firing at towed sleeve targets. This score was also satisfactory.
3. German 200-cm searchlights, powered by generators, were used at night. Seven searchlights with three generators were observed with one searchlight battery. This battery "passed on" the target-towing He-111 aircraft to other batteries during the practices. The planes flew at altitudes of 1,600 and 6,500 feet. During more than a hundred observed approaches the aircraft did not escape the searchlight beams.
4. About ten days prior to the close of the firing exercises two special devices which spotted aircraft without making them visible, [] were employed during night firing practices. [] stated that Czech AAA troops were to be equipped with these improvised devices of German origin.**

25X1 [] Comment:

* Siebel aircraft and some captured German He-111 aircraft are being used by the Czechoslovakian Armed Forces.

** The description of the functioning of range finders does not indicate whether infra-red devices or German AA radar sets were used. Since German firms manufacturing such devices were located

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Approved For Release 2006/02/02 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0004300130012-1

Next Review Date: 2008

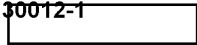
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in Czechoslovakia, the Czechs captured complete sets and
valuable developmental records on sets at the end of the war.

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