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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Establishment of a Restricted Military Area in the Sumava Region

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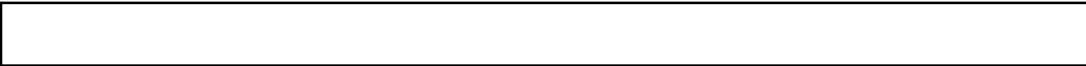
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1. Since October 1949, a portion of the Sumava region, about 10 km. broad and extending along the border, has been established as an off-limits military area. Units of both the SIB and the Army have been reinforced and posted at new stations. The main purposes for establishing this territory as a military area are as follows:
 - a. Isolation of this area from the rest of the region.
 - b. Evacuation of the civilian population from the area.
 - c. Occupation of the area by the Army.
 - d. Stronger fortification of the border and improvement of the guard service.
2. Since the fall of 1949, it has been very difficult for civilians to enter the area. Passes are no longer issued to tourists, who are now directed to places in the interior of the country. The new regulations mainly concern the area around Zelezna Ruda (Eisenstein - W50/Q07), which was formerly a famous winter sport center. The sport center has been transferred to Hartmanice (Hartmanitz - W50/Q17), which is about 12 km. from the border. Road and tourist signs leading to Zelezna Ruda are being removed by garrison soldiers stationed nearby.
3. Most of the civilians who live within 10 km. of the border will be evacuated. Only SIB garrisons and units, with a limited number of civilian employees, clerks, railway officials, road workers, and shopkeepers will remain here, and the political reliability of these employees will be the decisive factor in their selection. Although a few persons were to leave in October 1949, the actual evacuation is to be carried out gradually in the spring of 1950.
4. Units of the Army and the SIB will be stationed in the off-limits area to act as frontier guard and to receive mountain combat training. They will be quartered in hotels and cabins evacuated by civilians. The Army and SIB units have been

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reinforced and their location changed, the first change taking place on 11 October 1949. The former units stationed at the border were transferred to the interior of the country, and new units, consisting of recruits who have just finished their six-months' course, have replaced them. The new personnel were recruited from reliable members of the Army and are still wearing their army rank insignia, together with the red should straps which appear only on SNB uniforms. The locations and numbers of personnel of the SNB and Army units in this area are as follows:

- a. Spicak (Spitzenberg - N49/Q64), district Klatovy, 200 soldiers.
 - b. Zelezná Ruda, district of Klatovy, 60 SNB men.
 - c. Nove Zhuri (Haidl - N50/Q07), district of Susice, 40 SNB men.
 - d. Prasily (Stubenbach - N50/Q17), district of Susice, 40 SNB men.
 - e. Srni (Rehberg - N50/Q16), district of Susice, 100 soldiers and 40 SNB men.
 - f. Kvalda (N50/Q26), district of Susice, 40 SNB men.
 - g. Kasperske Hory (Reichenstein Berg - N50/Q27), district of Susice, 500 soldiers.
 - h. Rejstejn (Unter Reichenstein - N50/Q27), district of Susice, 200 soldiers.
 - i. Susice (N50/Q28), 400 soldiers and the district commander.
5. In the fall of 1949, the guard service along the border was intensified, and machine-gun towers, which were built during the summer, were equipped and armed. However, only those towers of strategic importance quite near the border, which have a broad horizon and give the gunners a long range, were armed. Other roads and paths leading to the border have been closed, and patrols on routine duty along the border were doubled. Each patrol, armed with automatic weapons, consists of four persons, two walking in front and two a short distance behind them.

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