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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. []

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 2 August 1951

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National Corporation, in Prague

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1. The main offices of the Czechoslovak Ceramics Enterprises, National Corporation, (CKZ) are in Prague II, Vaclavske namesti 51. The general manager of the corporation is Dr. B. Holatko. Since the reorganization of industries in 1950 each major ceramics plant has its own general management which is in turn subordinate to the appropriate production department of the general management of the Czechoslovak Ceramics Enterprises. There are five such production departments: raw materials, two sections for fine ceramics, ceramic building materials and ceramic fire-proof materials. The supply and sales department of the general management of CKZ controls the supply of all raw materials and the distribution of orders among the ceramics plants. Thus, the individual production plants have jurisdiction only over plant personnel and operation and other internal matters.
2. The following is a partial list and description of Czech plants producing the various types of ceramic goods:
 - a. Cement

Dvur Kralove, probably the largest cement plant in Czechoslovakia
Cizkovicce, which produces the best Portland cement in Czechoslovakia
 - b. Kaolin

Sedlec (N51/P69) mines produce the best kaolin in the world
Chlumcany (N50/L02) mines
Kadan mines
Podborany mines
 - c. Clay and sand

Rocov clay pit (N51/F20) is the most important in Czechoslovakia
 - d. Ceramic sanitary fixtures

Teplice, where production is considered to be poor
Znojmo, the former firm of Dittmar-Urbach

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e. Tile for export only

Horni Briza (N50/L05)
 Rakovnik (N51/L28), employs about 700 workers; manager is
 Dr. Ing. Kannhauser

Modlany
 Chlumcany, which produces the best tile in Czechoslovakia

f. Asbestos cement, known as Eternit, produced at a plant in Beroun. The asbestos being imported from the USSR is inferior to that formerly imported from Canada.

g. Chemical ware

Hrusov (P50/059) is the most important plant in Czechoslovakia

h. Fire brick and other heat resistant material, such as chamotte, dinas and horhart, which are in short supply. The industry suffers from a lack of labor.

Vidnava near Ostrava
 Letovice (P50/N34)
 Rajec (P50/N42)
 Opatovice (P50/S49)
 Svitavy (P50/N26)

i. Industrial porcelain for electrical insulation, heating installations, crucibles and other laboratory uses. There are seven national enterprises in this group, producing a total of about 11,000 tons per year.

- 1) Merklin Porcelain Factory at Merklin (N51/K60), employs about 600 workers and is well equipped. It has a modern high tension (600,000 volts) testing hall. The manager is Klufa, about 38 years old, a Communist. The plant produces insulators for high and low tension lines.
- 2) Stepo Plant at Stara Role (N51/P69), employs about 300 workers; manager is V. Herman, a moderate Communist. This plant, which started production of industrial porcelain in 1945, produces insulators for high and low tension lines. It has a branch plant in Struzna (formerly Kysibl - N51/P78), which employs about 150 workers managed by Cisar, and produces a poor grade of insulators and fuses for low tension lines. A second branch plant is located in As and employs about 150 workers managed by Tauber. This plant produces insulators for low tension lines and a good grade of pyrostat board.
- 3) Bohosudov Porcelain Factory (N51/F34), employs about 400 workers, managed by Jan Horejsi. This plant produces insulators and other items for low tension lines, bottle stoppers and more complicated electric lamps (sic). Production is of variable quality; equipment is old. A branch factory is located at Ledvice (N51/F23). It employs about 150 workers and is managed by Jaroslav Nezbeda. This factory produces insulators for high tension lines and the more complicated items used on low tension lines. Plant machinery is not modern.

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- 4) Jizera Porcelain Plant at Potocna near Jablonec, employs about 150 workers, managed by Ing. Havlik, about 50 years old. It produces high-grade porcelain for the textile industry, although plant equipment is old. A branch factory is located in Desna (O51/G36) which employs about 100 workers and is managed by Alexa. It produces laboratory porcelain and recently, after long tests, has succeeded in developing a porcelain in which the glaze is melted into the base material and which will not crack. This new porcelain is being tested at the newly established Ceramics Research Institute at Hradec Kralove. It will go on the market in April 1951 and may be used, if it proves successful in use, for parts of jet planes. A second branch plant is located at Raspenava (O51/G18). This is a new plant which employs about 100 persons. It produces bottle stoppers and items for low tension lines; quality is below average. Other new branch factories are located at Hejnice (O51/G27) and Libverda near Jablonec.
- 5) Louny Porcelain Plant (N51/F21) employing about 1,600 persons and managed by Rudolf Emminger, about 37 years old, a Communist. This plant has been modernized and is to be expanded to 4,000 workers by 1955. The plant has a modern tunnel furnace [redacted] and a modern testing hall. Its production capacity of high tension items will be very large, probably doubling the total Czech production of industrial porcelain although only test production has been undertaken to date. A small branch factory in Louny is slowly being abolished and the employees absorbed by the main factory. It produces items for both high and low tension.
- 6) Krkose Porcelain Plant in Zacler (O51/G75) employs about 400 workers and is managed by J. Schiller. It produces items for low tension and assembly porcelain (sic). The quality of porcelain production is average. It is planned that the plant will produce electric lamps.* A branch plant located at Kuks (O51/G73) produces a small number of false teeth.
- 7) Electroceramic Plant in Prague-Liben employs about 150 workers and produces pyrostat equipment and ceramic heating tubes. Production is small and plant equipment is old. A small branch plant located in Klenci (N50/P60) produces steatite items.
- j. Abrasives
- Benatky nad Jizerou plant produces carborundum disks and files, and paper and cloth-backed abrasives. The plant manager is Ing. Novak. Although the plant lacks raw materials, which formerly came from Canada, it is believed that it is using some new, very hard material in the production of abrasives.
- k. Cooking ware, ornamental earthenware
- Teplice
Duchov

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1. Porcelain dinnerware, produced by four national enterprises, primitively equipped for the most part.
 - 1) Thun National Corporation in Klasterec nad Ohri, employs about 450 workers; plant manager is Ruzicka. It has a branch plant at Lubenec (N51/P98).
 - 2) Epiag National Corporation at Dvory near Karlovy Vary, employs about 400 workers and is equipped with modern machinery and a tunnel furnace. Branch plants are at Brezova (Birkenhammer) and Duchov.
 - 3) Bohemia National Corporation at Nova Role (N51/P59) managed by Ing. K. Nutz, has a branch plant at Stara Role.
 - 4) Slavkov Porcelain Enterprise at Slavkov (N51/P68) has branch plants at Chodov (N51/P59), which employs about 270 workers, and Loucky, which employs about 150 workers.
 - m. Insulating material, including rock wool and heracelite board is produced by Banska a Hutni National Corporation in Kolin.
 - n. Brick is produced throughout Czechoslovakia. One of the largest yards in the country is at Svitavy (P50/N26).
 - o. Roofing tiles are produced primarily in southern Moravia.
3. Very few raw materials needed by the ceramics industry must be imported. Of those that do feldspar, which is imported from Sweden and Norway, is the most important. Other imports for the manufacture of porcelain include small amounts of gold for ornamentation, natural sponge for smoothing the surface of porcelain, paper for transfer prints and paint brush bristles. In addition, certain oxides for the manufacture of abrasives and asbestos must be imported and have been very difficult to obtain. The main difficulty in the industry is caused by the lack of trained personnel. The majority of workers before World War II were Germans. Very few Czechs are expert in the production of ceramics. Only at the Desna plant for the production of laboratory porcelain is there a ceramics engineer, Ing. Kuzmin, and he is at present in the military service. Most of the plant equipment is old and worn and production tools, which are produced at Hroznatin (O50/M90) and Luby, are insufficient to the needs of the industry. The quality of production has, therefore, become very inferior since the war.

* Comment: this plant is to be shut down when the Lomy plant goes into full production.

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