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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Austria

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 11 August 1951

SUBJECT Czech Frontier Barriers along the Austrian Border

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

REFERENCE COPY

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] the Czechs closed the border crossing point between Petrzalka (P49/X99) in Czechoslovakia and Kittsee (P49/X98) in Austria with sawhorses wrapped with barbed wire, and permanently closed the border gate. The customs house is closed and guarded by the SNB border patrol.

2. Since mid-July the Czechs have dug deep ditches and set tree stumps between one and one and one-half meters in height across certain other roads along the Austrian border with the result that automobiles can approach the border in this area only along the custom house roads. Czech police and customs officials explain that these measures have been taken and the border area combed in order to try to catch the many forced laborers who have recently fled the uranium mines and are now believed to be in the Bohemian forests.\*

3. Czech border guards have been strengthened during July 1951. Units of three to five men armed with automatic pistols patrol the Czech-Austrian border day and night.

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4. Prior to 6 July 1951 the Czechs blocked the following routes which cross the Austrian border with ditches about two meters wide and two meters deep and spruce stumps set in place across the roads.\*\*

a. Road between Thiergarten (48° 55'N, 15° 00'E) in the Langau forest district of Lower Austria and Fichtenthal (Vstokach - 48° 55'N, 14° 58' E) in Czechoslovakia about 1.4 km north of height 495.

b. Road from Langau forest past Svobodny Pond in Czechoslovakia to Medenice (48° 56'N, 14° 58'E) about 900 m southeast of height 500.

c. Road from the forest inspector's house in Langau forest to Medenice about 800 m east of height 500 and 700 m southwest of height 520.

d. Route (Wirtschaftsstreifen) from Chlumeck (48° 58'N, 14° 55'E) in Czechoslovakia between Svobodny Pond and the Austrian border about one km southeast of height 500.

e. Three roads from Stankav forest (48° 57'N, 14° 58'E) in Czechoslovakia and six other forest roads leading to the Austrian border between Langau forest and the custom house in Schlag, Austria. These routes are blocked at points between five and ten m from the border on the Czech side.

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25X1A \*  Comment: Since the uranium mines in Czechoslovakia center around the Jachymov area in the Sudetenland and are close to the Czech-German border, it is doubtful that escaping forced laborers would cross Czechoslovakia to the Austrian border.

25X1A \*\*  Comment: These roads may be identified on sheet 4454 of map series GSGS 4060, scale 1:75,000.

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