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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 22 October 1952

SUBJECT The AVH

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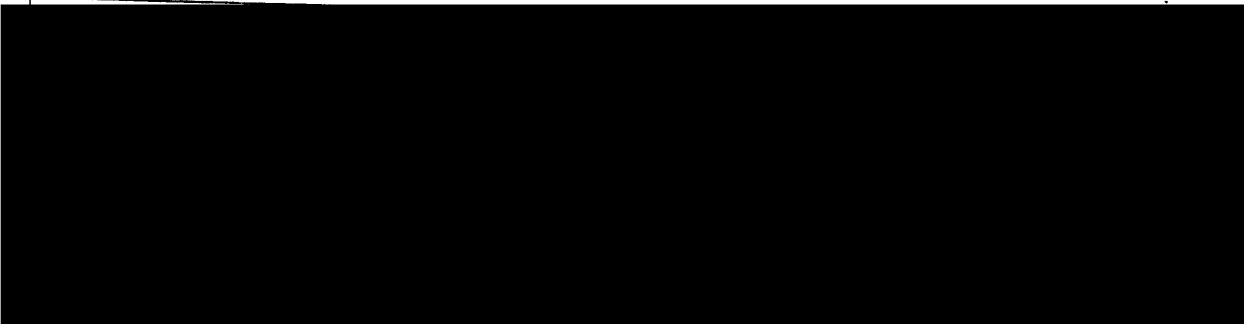
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Hungary

The Hungarian AVH Troops

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1. There are two kinds of Hungarian AVH (Secret Police) troops: "blue" and "green." The blue AVH look after internal security; the green AVH are the border guards. The green and the blue units are separate. The blue AVH is regarded as the more reliable formation. On border patrol duty, for example, for some months the system has been, for greater security, to have blue AVH troops at a certain distance behind the border guards, and if possible, in the forest. The members of the blue AVH were formerly selected personally and individually through the party organization, but for some months now they have been recruited as well, with the understanding that their cadre tests are of the most thorough nature. The reason is that the party has placed its best members in various military and civil posts and no longer has enough party cadres for the purpose. The green AVH is recruited in the same way as the army.
2. The blue and the green AVH troops are never quartered together, and the members of the two organizations never mix in their free time.
3. The AVH has no uniformed women units, but it has women agents in civilian dress in its service. Such agents have been reported with the AVH border guard battalion at Sasabathely and the border guard district command at Balazegerszeg.
4. The AVH border guards get higher pay than the army recruits. During the training period they receive 100 forints a month. On border post duty, soldiers without rank get an additional 70 forints cost of living bonus.
5. The following information comes from Sserencs, where a border guard battalion is stationed. On 1 November 1951 several hundred recruits were sent to this unit for training. They were given infantry and border service training until mid-February in the barracks at Sserencs. The food was tolerable until January; after that it

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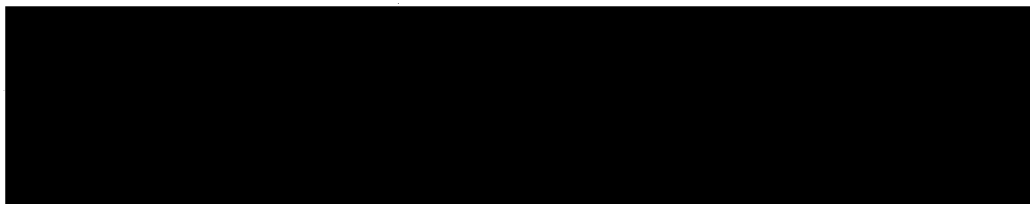
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became worse day by day. By the middle of February they were glad to be sent out to border service. With the border guards, until the spring of 1952, the food was considerably better than in the army.

6. The border guards get no leave for the first seven months. They are prevented from corresponding directly with their families. There are months together when they get no news from home.

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8. There were blue AVH troops as well in Szombathely and Zalaegerszeg. The members of the blue AVH appeared on the border only when notified of an attempt to escape or of some one seized on the border. They took over custody of arrested persons, conducted their interrogation, and turned the examinees over to the courts or other authorities.
9. At the Szentpéterfa border post not a single fugitive was taken from the middle of February 1952 to the middle of May.
10. At this post at the present time there are 70 border guards, commanded by a Communist second lieutenant. Until the middle of February there were only 25. Not one of the guards older in service has been discharged up to now. The soldiers do not know how long they will have to serve; they speak of three and five years.
11. Night duty lasts eight hours. Day duty is also eight hours in principle, but in reality it is 16 hours because the soldiers have no rest before and after the eight hours' patrol duty. Two friends are never sent out together; this is to prevent opportunities for escape. Enemies are usually placed with each other. Often an older border guard with a machine pistol and a recruit with rifle and bayonet go on patrol together. In spite of this, escapes occur frequently. Before the guards are assigned to a border post, they are told, in order to scare them, that deserters are seized by the Austrian gendarmerie and delivered up to a Soviet command without delay. The commanders declare publicly to the guards that death waits for deserters in Hungary, and that their families will be punished severely. These threats hardly fulfill their purpose, because many deserters flee to Austria. The gendarmes always let them through. If they are taken by a Soviet agency, they are lost.
12. The border guards have orders to report to headquarters every footprint they see in the earth on the border, but they seldom do it. In order to save work, they take a bough and wipe out the betraying print.
13. Border guards on the western border have not had a day's leave since November 1951. Only the battalion commander is authorized to grant leave. He is so ill-reputed and feared that no one ventures to approach him.

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14. Border guards have to subscribe 150 forints for the "peace loan."
15. At the border post under report, only two of the 70 men were real Communists.

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