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ITEM NO. 2391/55

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March 30

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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SOVIET ATOMIC ARTILLERY TO CZECHS?

SOURCE PARIS: Confidential source. /For more details contact the CS Evaluation Desk./

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Mid-March 1955.

EVAL. COMMENT: This report is recommended for information only. Subsource of RFE Item No. 1536/55 /Limited Distribution/ disclosed in his other reports some interesting details about war industry in the CSR, and during some personal interviews dealt with testing grounds in NE Slovakia. According to his description of the operations carried out there, it might be conjectured that atomic artillery is being tested here. However, the information is too vague to be of positive value. It is recommended that the CS Evaluation Desk be contacted for additional details. All the training grounds under reference were identified with the aid of our files. The "Institute of Military Research" is probably the Military Technical Academy, on which ample information is available here. RFE Item No. 10454/53, stated that a chemical faculty exists there. The existence of arsenals in ADAMOV is possible in view of the armaments factory located in that locality.

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According to a PARIS publication which is generally considered reliable, Czechoslovakia has during the past few weeks received an important quantity of Soviet atomic artillery which is being installed in areas to which access is strictly controlled.

The item in the "Lettre d'Information," published by the "Agence Francaise," dated March 11 1955, read as follows:

"Units of Soviet atomic artillery have during the past few weeks been arriving in Czechoslovakia, where they are being installed in closed areas to which access is controlled very severely. These closed areas are mainly to be found:

- 1/ North of OLOMOUC;
- 2/ North-East of ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE, where the Soviets have installed proving grounds for artillery;
- 3/ In Slovakia, where there are two entirely closed areas; one in the valley of the Váh, and the other in the valley of the Nitra.
- 4/ In Bohemia, where about 15 villages have been partially evacuated between MIMON and ČESKÁ LÍPA. The Soviet troops installed in this area are parachutists or belong to units equipped with arms similar to the "Stalin Organ" rocket launcher.

In collaboration with Soviet scientists, the Czech government has recently created an "Institute of Military Research" in BRNO, where new chemical arms are being worked out.

At the ADAMOV arsenals, finally, atomic fuse shells are manufactured.

End

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