

ITEM NO 6432/56

PRIORITY

AP

June 26

XIII-1250/a

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COMMUNICATIONS /0500/
Air Transportation /0501/
Accidents /0511/

PROPAGANDA /2600/
Lies /2602/

LEVOCA AIR PLANE DISASTER BLAMED ON FAULTY IGNITION

SYSTEM.

SOURCE SALZBURG: A 33-year-old mechanic who arrived in Austria in May 1956.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May 1956.

ENGLISH SUMMARY: A member of the National Security Corps Air Police who participated in the investigation concerning the airplane disaster near LEVOCA, reportedly stated to his friend that the accident was caused by a total failure of the ignition system. Subsource allegedly overheard the conversation.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This highly interesting information is reported for the first time.

On January 20 1956, Radio PRAGUE announced the January 18 crash of a Czechoslovak aircraft in the vicinity of the Slovak town LEVOCA, causing the death of 22 people and seriously injuring four others. On February 21 1956 it was officially announced that the crash was caused "by the collision of the aircraft with a balloon sent over Czechoslovak territory by American organizations, from bases in Western Germany." The crash was also subject of diplomatic notes; the latest one was sent by the Czechoslovak Government to the US Government on June 20 1956.

/over/

Please see also VIENNA RFE Item No. 2222/56 entitled "Airplane Disaster Near LEVOČA," the subsource of which claims to have been "near the place of the accident."

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Informátor byl asi 5 dní po havarii jako nezúčastněný přítomen rozhovoru mezi jedním úředníkem/Details available at CS.Evaluation Desk/národního podniku KOVOSLUŽBA, a jeho bývalým kolegou, který aktivně slouží u letectva SNB a který se zúčastnil vyšetřování příčiny katastrofy.

Jako zjištěný důvod zřícení letadla udal poruchu v elektrickém zařízení, která zapříčinila nemožnost spojení s letištěm v POPRADĚ které bylo pod mlhou. Poškozené dynamo způsobilo totální zastavení motoru a zřícení letadla. O možnosti poškození balony se vůbec nezminil.

End