

ITEM No 3771/56

A.A.Distribution

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mr. Weaver.

PRIORITY

LL

April 12

XIII-1213

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

EXILE (1200)
Anti-Communist Propaganda (Veto) (1207)

FOREIGN RELATIONS (1500)
Relations with other Countries (1505)

CZECH LEAFLETS FOUND NEAR SALZBURG

SOURCE SALZBURG: RFE News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: March 30 1956.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: There is no way of knowing how long the three packages of leaflets lay on the ground before source found them.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The Evaluator recalls the protest of the Austrian Foreign Minister FIGL against "RFE balloons," which was published in most Western papers, e.g. "Süddeutsche Zeitung" of April 6 1956, "Manchester Guardian" of April 5 1956, etc. According to the official version, a FEP balloon allegedly exploded while being taken into a house by a farmer's wife in the Austrian village WILFERSDORF, causing considerable damage to the building.

+ + +

A Czech refugee living in SALZBURG went walking on March 30 1956, in the border area near BAD REICHENHALL. He found in the woods, on the Austrian side of the border, three packages of leaflets. They were in the Czech language and carried the number 43. The three packages were not broken open, and lay approximately 30 or 50 meters distant from each other. Source was unable to find any evidence of a balloon, or any other material in the vicinity.

End