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ITEM NO 6641/56

AP

July 3

XIII-1251/I

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

<u>ARMED FORCES</u>	/0300/
Army	/0301/
Military Installations	/0324/
<u>MORALE</u>	/2000/
Whisper Propaganda	/2002/

ARTILLERY RANGE AT MALACKY RUMORED TO BE MOVED.

SOURCE SALZBURG: A 50-year-old office clerk who arrived in Austria in May 1956.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May 1956.

ENGLISH SUMMARY: According to obstinate RUMORS circulating in Western Slovakia, the artillery range at MALACKY is to be moved to the PEZINOK area; the transfer is necessitated by Austrian neutrality.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: We doubt the validity of this RUMOR, for the following reasons. First, a transfer "on account of Austrian neutrality" of the artillery range only, makes no sense; in the same neighborhood there is a large air force range with the airfield NOVY DVOR, which, however, does not seem to be affected by the Austrian neutrality. Secondly the terrain in the PEZINOK area is not suitable for an artillery range, disregarding the fact that local viticulture would suffer. The only area in that neighborhood that could be adapted for a modest artillery range is "Turecky vrch," which is located just between PEZINOK and JABLONOV, and has been used for infantry training. Considering the capacity of other artillery ranges /VYSKOV, ORTEMOV LAZ, KAMENICA NAD CIROKOU, / the Army would hardly have to depend on improvisations. If the MALACKY artillery
/over/

range is abolished, it may be rather in order to make way for a possible enlargement of the air force range.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The Evaluator agrees with the Comments of the Correspondent, who as a former artillery officer knows the situation in subject area from his own experience.

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Na západnom Slovensku sa tvrdošijne drží nezaručená zpráva, že delostrelecká strelnica pri MALACKÁCH má byť premiestená do priestoru PEZINOK. Plánované premiestenie je údajne priamym dôsledkom rakúskej neutrality, ktorá robila ponechanie výcvikových stredísk v bezprostrednej blízkosti hraníc neúnosným.

End

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