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July 16  
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

POW'S (2400)

POLICE AND SECURITY (2300)  
Criminals (2313)

CZECHS TO RELEASE ALL GERMAN "WAR CRIMINALS".

SOURCE BERLIN : Information Bureau West.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: July 6 1955.

CORRESPOND.COMMENT : This story was teletyped to Central News  
on July 6.

EVALUATION COMMENT : Attention Programming.

Any official announcement promising the release of all German war criminals is unknown and UNCONFIRMED here. However, it has been the trend of the last approximately one-and-a-half years to release, without much difficulties from the CSR jails German prisoners although they have not served their full sentences and repatriate them wherever they liked to. Ample information on that subject is available here; for details please contact the CS Evaluation Desk. A number of POW transports arrived also from the USSR and in view of the ADENAUER visit to MOSCOW their number may even increase. The distinction between the POWs and war criminals may become less sharp in the light of the present USSR policy regarding German nationals, and it is quite possible that the whole matter is a prelude to the reception of ADENAUER in MOSCOW. Due to the lack of any confirmatory evidence it is recommended to use this report with caution.

In connection with the reported matter it is pointed out that "Rude pravo" of May 15 1955 reported that a death sentence was passed on a former Gestapo man who was allegedly handed over to the CSR authorities in 1954 (the paper did not state by whom.) His name was Fritz BRUECKNER. "Rude pravo" stressed that this war criminal met a well deserved fate.

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(Over)

The Czechoslovakian Government has announced that it will release all Germans who have been imprisoned in that country for alleged war crimes.

This became known to the East BERLIN Foreign Ministry in a communication from the Soviet Zone Embassy in PRAGUE.

The release of the prisoners is independent of the length of their term of imprisonment and will be effected throughout the course of this year.

All preparations, including the checking of document files, have been started. The Czech Government will conform to the prisoners' wishes regarding their place of release.

End.