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S/NF-0418/POW-MIA

1. **PURPOSE:** (U) To provide information for a proposed diplomatic demarche to the [Czechoslovakian] Government.

2. **POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST:**

a. [REDACTED] During an Escape and Evasion research project in September 1990, Air Force Intelligence (AF/INU) debriefed a United States Government (USG) source on Soviet Prisoner of War (POW) interrogation techniques. He alleged that some of the POW handling techniques were based on research conducted during the Korean war. This research comprised medical, psychological, and drug-induced behavior modification experiments performed on American POWs. Source also stated that a number of American POWs were executed at the conclusion of the tests. Subsequent to the completion of Operation Desert Storm, DIA's Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (DIA/POW-MIA) was informed of the investigative lead and conducted an initial interview with the source.

b. [REDACTED] DIA/POW-MIA conducted an intensive and extensive review of open source literature and archived intelligence materials. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was tasked to search archived intelligence reports as well as current sources and defectors. Department of Defense (DoD) elements were similarly tasked. The investigative and analytical effort culminated with a report of investigation received from the Czechoslovakian Intelligence Service in March 1992. While the information developed does not corroborate the specific operation, it does confirm corollary elements of the source's report such as the existence and location of field elements and of Czechoslovakian and Soviet institutions in North Korea. In addition, developed information confirmed the correct names, placement, and access of several individuals identified by the source. Also, it should be noted as background that the source has provided reliable information to the USG for over 20 years. Upon completion of the investigative effort the source was polygraphed on the essential elements of the reported information with "no deception indicated."

c. [REDACTED] Source's Report: During the Korean war a Soviet and Czech drug testing program utilized American and other United Nations POWs as laboratory specimens. The program was initiated by the then Soviet Union's Main Medical Administration of the Ministry of Defense and conducted jointly with medical personnel from the Czechoslovakian Military Health Administration and

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Korean doctors. Testing was done in a Czech built hospital in North Korea. Analysis was conducted in Prague by the Central Military Hospital and the Air Force Research Institute.

(1) The drug experimentation program's primary objective was to develop methods of modifying human behavior and destroying psychological resistance. The program studied the effects of various drugs and environmental conditions on American soldiers and pilots. A secondary objective of the program was to train Czechoslovakian and Soviet doctors under wartime conditions.

(2) At the conclusion of the testing program a number of American POWs were executed. The individuals were executed to preclude public exposure of the information. This action was discussed by Department Eight (Administrative Organs Department of the Czech Government) and the Soviet Main Health Administration and Administrative Organs Department. The source has indicated that these and other Soviet organizations were participants in the testing program.

d. ([REDACTED]) POW-MIA investigation and analysis has confirmed that the Czechoslovakian Government did have a large hospital facility, staffed by Czech medical personnel, operating in North Korea during the war. In addition, special POW interrogation facilities were maintained in North Korea and Mukden, China (Mukden was the location for Japan's biological warfare testing program during WW II). Caucasians believed to have been Soviets or East Europeans were described by returned U.S. POWs as directing interrogation operations at both facilities. Intense interrogations and environmental control techniques were also practiced at both facilities. The activities at these two known special interrogation facilities cannot be directly linked to research at the Czech hospital based on currently available information.

e. ([REDACTED]) At the request of DIA, the CIA has queried the Czechoslovakian Intelligence Services (CIS) on this matter. The CIS has confirmed the existence of the Air Force Health Research Institute, the Central Military Hospital in Prague, and the identities of physicians identified by the USG's source. The physicians served in the Central Military Hospital and in the Czech hospital in North Korea. Czech sources deny that their personnel conducted any activities other than medically treating North Korean civilians.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. ([REDACTED]) All available intelligence and open sources have been exploited to collect information on the Soviet-Czech drug experimentation program. More detailed information on the

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PHONE NO. :

Sep. 07 2007 09:56AM P3



program-related activities, personalities, and organizations of the former Czechoslovakian Government is listed in the enclosure below. To resolve the question of American unaccounted for from the Korean War, additional information must be obtained from the current Czechoslovakian Government and the Commonwealth of Independent States. At a minimum, this would include archival records access to validate known information and develop additional leads for follow-up. The ultimate goal would be the development of information concerning unaccounted-for Americans possibly involved in the program sufficient to determine and document their fate.

