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SUMMARY

GENERAL

1. Chinese Communists turn to Western Europe and North Africa for strategic commodities (page 3).

EASTERN EUROPE

2. Anniversary of "liberation" by Soviets takes precedence as Czech state holiday (page 3).



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GENERAL

- 1. Chinese Communists turn to Western Europe and North Africa for strategic commodities:

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reports received during the past three months indicate that the Chinese Communists are turning to western Europe and North Africa for procurement of strategic com-

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modities formerly purchased in the US. Purchases already made or in process of negotiation include such items as medicines and drugs, communications and transport equipment, iron and steel products, and motors and other electrical equipment.

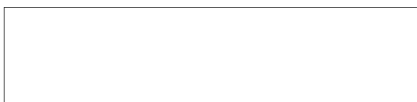
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EASTERN EUROPE

- 2. Anniversary of "liberation" by Soviets takes precedence as Czech state holiday:

3.3(h)(2)



On 3 February, the Czech Foreign Office instructed its legation in Rome to hold only a small function on the

anniversary of the Communist coup d'etat (25 February), since the May anniversary of the Soviet Army's "liberation" of Czechoslovakia is to be the major celebration of the year. [redacted] the Czech Independence Day (28 October) will continue as a state holiday but "its celebration will have to have a new political significance."

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Comment: This is a further example of the steps being taken to transform Czechoslovakia into a quasi-republic within the USSR.

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