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Abstract: Intercepted communications indicate that Cuban pilots are being trained in Czechoslovakia.

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Spanish-speaking Pilot Noted in Czechoslovak Air Activity

Czechoslovak air-ground communications observed on 17 January 1960 on a frequency of 114.25 MHz (combined bomber training/tactical frequency allocated to the 9th Bomber Division/SJHl, Prerov) show that a Spanish-speaking pilot was probably undergoing flight training of an unidentified type at Trencin airfield (VHF-5CH10-RUE).

At approximately 0802, an unidentified Spanish-speaking pilot was in contact with the Trencin airfield tower control (callword TETON-1). The transmission was subsequently blocked by a Czech transmission and only six numbers (217213), given in Spanish, were heard. Two other pilots, speaking Czech and utilizing pilot suffixes 161 and 175 (unidentified), were also noted in contact with the Trencin controller, but there was no indication that these pilots were working together or with the Spanish-speaking pilot.

Comment: This is the first known VHF activity at Trencin by a Spanish-speaking pilot. Use of the SJHl frequency suggests that this pilot was possibly in a bomber or bomber trainer; however, activity at Trencin noted in previous CASSNT has not been identifiable as bomber activity.

Spanish-speaking pilots were noted previously communicating on HF with the Trencin airfield controller on 11 October 1960, and were believed to be training in ground attack aircraft. Subsequent Trencin-controlled activity in October, also on HF, included references to the YAK-11, a piston engine trainer.

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