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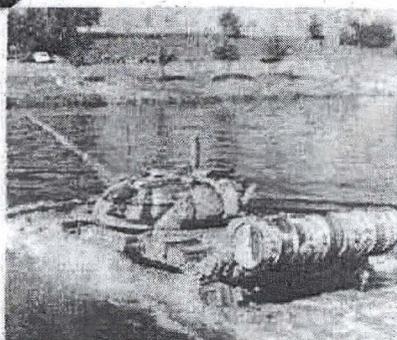
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THE COVER

Soviet-designed T-54 medium tank, equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks, fords a stream during Exercise Vltava. Held in Czechoslovakia 20-22 September 1966, Vltava was one of three major exercises conducted last year by Warsaw Pact forces. The other two—Baikal and Autumn—were held in Poland. Basic similarities were evident, however, in all three. Scenarios called for a nuclear environment with "enemy" forces penetrating

"critical" areas, and then being driven back and defeated by a Pact counter-offensive. Although Vltava did not achieve the magnitude forecast by advance communist publicity, it had significant political aspects and provided an added insight into Pact strategy and tactics. For more details see "Exercises by Warsaw Pact Forces Reflect Contingency Planning," page 19, and "Exercise Vltava: Sketch of Forces and Events," beginning on page 21. [8]

FOREWORD

MISSION: The mission of the monthly *Defense Intelligence Digest* is to provide all components of the Department of Defense and other United States agencies with timely intelligence of wide professional interest on significant developments and trends in the military capabilities and vulnerabilities of foreign nations. Emphasis is placed primarily on nations and forces within the Communist World.

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