

PR-36
 'Oberon'
 Country of origin:
 Czechoslovakia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: SNB (State Security Corps), StB.
Design/Manufacturer: Tesla, Czechoslovakia.
Year of Introduction: Late 1980's.
Purpose: Surveillance, covert operations.
Transmitter-Receiver:
Frequency Coverage: 80MHz band. 5 channels, F3 simplex. 1750Hz calling tone. Speech scrambling. Optional vibrator for silent call. No details are known about the 160MHz version probably used in the GDR.
RF output: 500mW.
Power Supply: 6V 225mAh rechargeable NiCad battery.
Size (cm): Height 18.9 (including battery), length 7.7, Width 1.9.
Weight: 653g including battery.
Accessories: Many of the accessories such as the rechargeable battery, various aerials and speaker-microphones were identical to the PR-35. (See Chapter 20 for details)

REMARKS

The PR-36, also known as Oberon, was a miniature body wearable covert VHF FM transceiver used by the Czechoslovakian state security and related organisations. It replaced the PR-35 Faun, (see Chapter 120) and resembled it in many aspects, including the same frequency band. Many of the accessories were identical as those used with the PR-35. Due to the demand for more operational channels, the Oberon had 5 simplex channels, and a simple form of speech inversion for scrambling. This feature was permanently switched on. It was technically more advanced than its predecessor PR-35, with a better squelch circuit and provided more RF output. Volume control and PTT keying was via a remote control unit which, depending upon the version, was carried in the hand or hidden in a pocket.
 In the GDR there were intentions to replace the PR-35 Faun by the PR-36 in 1989. This might have been a 160MHz version. Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is not known whether the PR-36 eventually was issued.



PR-36 Oberon (left) in comparison with its predecessor PR-35 Faun. (right)



PR-36 Oberon with various accessories in a transit case.

References:

- Photographs and information courtesy Miro Hornik, OM3CU, Slovak Republic.
- Photo of PR-36 in transport packing and in comparison with a PR-35 were taken by Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.



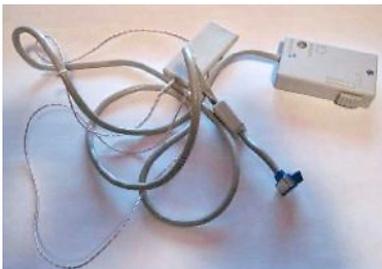
Internal view of PR-36 with its outer cover removed



Different, probably later issued version of the PR-36 remote control unit.



Bottom view showing channel numbers and serial number.



Remote control unit with a vibrator connected. Other variations of this unit have been noted.



Battery charger RNF-10.



Basic remote control unit. This variation had neither a built-in loudspeaker nor a vibrator unit.



An inconspicuous wireless (induction loop principle) 'behind-the ear' hearing aid type earphone was developed in the GDR for the PR-35 and the PR-36. It was probably imported and used in Czechoslovakia.

