WAR INDUSTRY

Vienna: Soviet experts visited the Bratislava Dynamite factory of "DINAMITA" at the beginning of April, because it was alleged that the plans for the reconstruction of the plant had fallen into American hands, said an engineer and a former employee of the factory. The man arrived in Vienna about two weeks ago after he had spent seven months in the Bratislava prison. The visit of the experts he said, has been ordered by the Soviet plenipotentiary for Czechoslovak industry. The "fact" of the theft, however, was not known for a whole year since the Czechoslovak authorities had kept it a complete secret.

The plant had to be thoroughly reorganized after March 1950 when the plans of the factory were brought by one of the passengers on the plane which landed illegally in FRIDING, near MUNCHEN in western Germany on March 24, 1950. Although the bearer, who was a reliable Communist Party member, stated that all plans were torn into pieces and swallowed by the comrades travelling on the three "stolen" planes, before they - the plans - could have been stolen by the Americans, the truth was that they were left in the crew's cabin and handed over by the pilots to the respective American authorities immediately after the landing.

One of the main present difficulties in the productivity of the factory is a high rate of absenteeism on account of illness. On the recommendation of the Soviet expert, the factory had to establish a "night hospital" for its workers. The purpose of the hospital is to allow the workers who had been sick and partly cured to continue with their treatment so that they would not miss their work shifts.

Slow production at the factory, the experts found, as due to another reason; there are many political prisoners working there who are forced to work hard but are not entitled to the privileges accorded the ordinary workers. As a result, they do not care about increasing their production. Moreover, there is a high rate of casualties among the prisoners who are not skilled workers. Not only do they get poor medical help and attention, but they even paid much less than those who are kept in forced labor camps.

The prisoners are kept during their non-working hours in the Bratislava prison. There they receive rather bad treatment, especially from a certain guard called MALAK, a short lean fellow. "He is noted for spying on the prisoners and eavesdropping on their conversation. His wife, who is in charge of the women prisoners, is also known for her cruelty and sneakiness.