

AH
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HUNGARIA

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

TRADE 3305 b)

Heavy Machinery For Hungary.

SOURCE BERLIN: Visitor from ABUS - WILDAU.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 10 December 1953

EVAL. COMMENT:

Hungarian Evaluation: Although subject case is UNCONFIRMED, the delivery of such machine tools is in accordance with the Hungarian-East German trade agreement. East Germany exports to Hungary large variety of machinery.

Czech Evaluation: Paragraph 3 concerning conditions in PLZEN factories is definitely wrong. No such conditions were prevailing there even before the war. Only those workers enjoyed free allowance of beer who worked in the famous PLZEN brewery. According to the Evaluator's opinion this little detail renders the whole report valueless, since he believes that this generosity serves only propaganda purposes.

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The heavy machinery construction plant ABUS in WILDAU eight weeks ago received orders to construct eight knee-lever-presses to be delivered to Hungary during the course of this year. Presses are manufactured in addition to machinery produced under the quota system.

For the past eight weeks workers have thus worked on Sundays and holidays. Workers were told that Hungary will deliver consumer goods in return for the knee-lever-presses. Part of the Hungarian consumer goods are to be offered for sale to employees of the ABUS plant.

Under the program of "exchanging experience," a number of ABUS workers visited PRAGUE and PILSEN in the CSR during September for two weeks. Having looked at several factories and plants in PILSEN, workers upon return to WILDAU reported that working conditions in PILSEN were far better than their own in WILDAU. Apart from employing superior technical equipment, PILSEN workers at factories manufacturing heavy machinery are granted two liters of beer, free of charge, each day. In the eyes of German workers this contrasted sharply with working conditions in WILDAU where even the sale of beer to ABUS workers has been prohibited last year.

End.