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24 December 1951
VI/N.R/2/1730

CZECHOSLOVAKIALABOR

Foreign Labor
Relationships

Italian Communist Workers In Czechoslovakia

SOURCE ROME: A letter from BRATISLAVA

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

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About 1,000 Italian Communists are being employed in Czechoslovakia carrying out the excavations and digging for the construction of the huge metal and foundry combine near KOSICE, for road construction at KRALOVANY, for blasting at HODONIN and KLDNO. These workers are coming from various parts of Italy and are greatly esteemed for their aptness. But the Sicilians and Neapolitans cannot stand the climate very well.

The Czech Communist leaders are treating this group with special attention and favor granting it all possible facilities. The Italians being very susceptible to flattery and fine words, it is hoped that this special treatment will make them propaganda for the People's Democracy in their own country.

And indeed on 2 December 1951, the voluntary Italian workers TONELLO (fnu), MINARINI Clara, PALEMMI (fnu), NORINI (fnu), del MARE Giovanni, PERANTONER Antonio, FORNI Enrico, BIANCHI Basileo, CAVALLIERI Cesare and others were honored and praised in an address of ZUPKA Frantisek, the director of the Central Committee for Skilled Workers.

The local workers are quite openly protesting against such a preferential treatment of their Italian fellow-workers, and they are feeling set back in all respects. While on the one hand they are constantly urged by the Soviet Stachanow workers to accomplish more work, on top of this they are told on the other hand, to imitate the excellent example of the Italians.

A fact which chiefly excites the indignation of the Czech workers is that the Italians often receive packages from Italy containing rice, nylon stockings, salami and silk fabrics, which they sell on the blackmarket for extraordinary prices. "Discontent is indeed very great on the whole line and is manifested again and again in new manners, and the hatred against the People's Democracy is thereby steadily increasing." (This is what the worker STEPEK Frano from ROZNAVA, Slovakia, writes, who himself belongs to the discontented.)

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed. We have got more detailed information from other sources, concerning the newly built industrial complex near KOSICE. Its name is Hube. Names of Italian workers not previously reported. ZUPKA Frantisek is actually the chairman of ROH, the Czechoslovak Trade Union Congress.