

LL
20 July 1951
VI-272

ROMANIA

INDUSTRY

An old glass factory is situated in "Valea Prahovei" at AZUGA. This factory has been nationalized and is now administered by the state. Technical director of the factory is Communist GHERIAN Emil, engineer and former iron guardist. He is an active member of the Party and an agent of the Secret Police. Many workers accused of sabotage were arrested due to his denunciations.

A certain BUZOLI Petre is chief of the Personnel Office. Both GHERIAN and BUZOI are natives of AZUGA, known for their disorder and immoral life.

The factory has some 700 workers, recruited from the local population and from nearby villages. For some time the factory has been specializing in the production of bottles, jars and insulators. Since autumn 1949, it has been working exclusively for the Soviet command and for the various Rumanian-Russian companies in Rumania. Some 3,000,000 glass jars and about 1,000,000 insulators were produced during 1949/1950. These articles were consigned to a Russian military commission. In order to finish these items on time, workers had to neglect quality, which caused many complaints from the Russian Command, who refused to accept faulty material.

Acts of technical sabotage occur. Workers raise the temperature of the furnaces until the material again becomes liquid.

The workers are very discontent on account of the low salaries, high working norms and inhuman treatment.

The factory has a bad canteen, which holds only 100 persons at one time. No eating utensils are provided, the place is unhealthy and food is of low quality. Workers receive one meal a day, consisting of 250 grams of bread, cabbage or bean soup, and a dish of potatoes. Twice a week they receive meals prepared with the remains of meat supplied to the Russians by the PLOESTI slaughterhouse, such as hoofs, cartilage, lungs, bones, etc. A meal costs 25 Lei, and although it is the basic daily alimentation, it never exceeds 1,200 calories, whereas workers in this industry would require at least 4,000 calories a day.

Workers are lodged within the factory, in rooms without stoves or windows. Each room has twenty beds covered with straw. Mattresses, sheets and blankets are not available. Regardless of the constant sacrifice...

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lice and cases of typhus occur often. Many have tuberculosis and syphilis, but they receive no adequate medical treatment. Only very serious cases are sent to a sanatorium. The factory physician reports five to six cases of syphilis each week, for the treatment of which a Russian cure was introduced in spring 1950. Such treatment is based on arsenic and is inefficient. Other preparations were imported from CSR, but proved useless; causing hepatitis and nephritis. The factory dispensary has no streptomycin, penicillin or even aspirine.

The Ministry of Health maintains only one drugstore in AZUGA for the 4,000 workers and their families. This drugstore has been assigned a rather small quantity of medicines for 1951, valued at 400,000 Lei. Physicians of the local factories are not allowed to prescribe medicines produced in Western countries.

The Ministry of Labor has appropriated 90 Lei per year for each worker for medical assistance through Social Insurance. In case of illness, therefore, the major part of the expenses is charged to the "directorial funds" of the factory which, however, allocates funds only when the factory is not in deficit.

A specialized glass-maker foreman who formerly earned some 18,000 to 20,000 Lei per month, barely earns 8,000 Lei under the Communist regime's work-norms. An average worker earns 19,50 Lei per hour, providing he fulfils the norms.

In many instances the militia control personnel have discovered theft and sabotage. In September 1950 the transmission belt of an engine was stolen. In January 1951 the homogenizer "Aeri" for the preparation of glass paste was rendered unserviceable.

An episode which occurred on 26 June 1950, at the outbreak of war in Korea, illustrates the mood of workers. Rumors circulated that the conflict would extend to Europe, that Turkey had started hostilities at the South Russian border and that the US Airforce had already sent bombers to Soviet territory. Workers left the factory in a state of delight, hoping for imminent liberation. Securitatea had to intervene and force them to return to the factory.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable;

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Information: technical details as well
as deplorable living stand-
ards of the workers are con-
firmed by other sources.