

G/B
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MILITARY FORCES
Military Labor Units

PERSECUTION & PURGES
Political Pressure

57-Year-Old Drafted Into Labor Battalion Because Cousin Is
Politically Active In U.S.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: A 31-year-old refugee who personally knew the family in question. He escaped West in August 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: Since no details are given, this report is issued for information only. However, the reported sort of persecution is nothing extraordinary in a Communist-run state.

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mr. Stowe,
Mr. Kohak,
Mr. Michie,
Mr. Kellen

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Although 57 years old, the chief chemical engineer of the BREZNO NAD HRONOM hospital laboratory (NU) was called up about 14 months ago and placed in a PTP labor battalion near PLZEN where he stayed until source escaped in August 1953. During this time he did hard labor in a china clay mine and was not allowed a single day's leave to visit his family, although his wife was permitted to send him packages with clean laundry and to visit him four times a year.

When his wife inquired of the battalion officers why he was called up at his age and placed in a penal company, they replied: "Because his cousin works against our People's Democracy in the United States. We have no idea when he'll be released."

It appears that the cousin referred to works in the Council of Free Czechoslovakia of which the Communists got wind. . . However, the man himself had nothing to do with the cousin's escape from the country. The man is an engineer of chemistry who owned a drug store in BREZNO NAD HRONOM before the 1948 putsch and after the putsch was engaged as the chief of the local hospital's laboratory.

End.