

PRIORITY

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POLAND  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
HUNGARY  
USSR

SOVIET UNION /3900/  
Labor Camps /3903/

PoWs /2400/  
PoWs in USSR /2401/

CAPTIVE NATIONS' AND US PRISONERS IN THE USSR.

SOURCE GRAZ: An Austrian prisoner recently repatriated from the USSR. He understands a little Russian, spoke with some of the personalities named and elicited further details from mutual prison acquaintances.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until May 1955.

POLISH EVALUATION COMMENT:

The names of two Polish prisoners, Michał BIAŁY and /fnu/ KOWICZENKO, are new to us.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN EVALUATION COMMENT:

The presence in VORKUTA of 40 to 50 Czechoslovak students is reported for the first time.

HUNGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT:

The information about KOVÁCS Béla is already known. The presence of Hungarian prisoners in VORKUTA is confirmed.

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Arrested by the Soviets in autumn 1949, source was sent to VORKUTA /NW Siberia/ "prison camp" at the close of the year. Here, he remained until late 1950, where he was employed as a forced laborer and inmate of "Shaft Camp No.8" /"Schachtlager Nr. 8"/ in a local coalmine for a few weeks.

Among the inmates of the "prison camp" were:

Forty or fifty Czechoslovak students, all aged about 25 years, who had been sentenced "to long terms of imprisonment for conspiring against the Regime."

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Some fifteen Hungarians, aged 30 to 40 years, who had reputedly been arrested in 1949 or 1950.

In "Shaft Camp No.8" source spoke with NAPHOLZ Josef, a 40-year-old former Danube steamer captain, and ZIERMER Paul, a cabinet maker aged about 35 years. Both were Rumanian citizens, had been arrested in 1948 and were serving 25-year terms of imprisonment.

While in the "prison camp" at VERKHNE-URALSK from winter 1950/51 to summer 1954, source met KOVÁCS Béla, the former secretary general of the Hungarian Peasant Party. KOVÁCS, who was "about 55 years old," had been held at NEUNKIRCHEN /Austria/ from 1948 to 1951, was serving a 25-year term of forced labor and was transferred to VLADIMIR in summer 1954.

Sent to the "central prison" at ALEKSANDROVSK /IRKUTSK Oblast/ in summer 1954 and held there until his repatriation in May 1955, source met the following:

BIALY Michał, aged 40, and /LNU/ "Misha," aged 35. Both were Poles who had been arrested 50 kilometers from the border while attempting to escape to Austria in 1948. They were reputed to have been members of a WARSAW resistance movement and had allegedly had their original death sentence commuted to 25 years imprisonment.

KOWICZENKO /fnu/, a 45-year-old Polish "electro-engineer" from KRAKOW or WARSAW, who was serving a 25-year sentence.

POGACAR /fnu/, a 35-year-old ship's cook from the CSR. He wore a black patch over his left eye, had been arrested in 1948 and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

FEINGERS Mori, a 32-year-old US soldier from BROOKLYN. He had been arrested on the Czechoslovak-German border in 1948, held in NEUNKIRCHEN prison until 1951 and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for "espionage."

End.