

AH /B
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD

A Larger Attendance At The Funeral Of A convinced Communist.

SOURCE ROME: A woman emigree on her way through Italy to Israel

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current period

EVAL. COMMENT: The subject is UNCONFIRMED here as well as the mentioned name. No comment.

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The chief of the coal storehouse in LUCENEC was a fervent Communist called KOVAL. Before the war this man belonged to the HLINKA Guards, and when the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia he became a Communist and gained a high position within the Party. As far as his work was concerned, i.e. when coal was distributed to the people, he was always very humane, but he never refrained from stressing his membership in the Party and from making propaganda in favor of the regime.

In August 1952 KOVAL fell ill and asked for a Catholic priest. He made his confession and received the Sacraments, a fact that provoked the indignation of all local Communists. In his last will he asked the presence of a Catholic priest at his funeral. How great was the surprise of all the people when they learned that this ardent Communist used to go to Communion every week. The people of LUCENEC came in crowds to his funeral in order to show their liking for the dead and for his faithfulness to Catholicism.