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GREEK REPATRIANT REPORTS ON CS. POPULATIONS ATTITUDE.SOURCE ATHENS: A 37-year-old Greek repatriate worker.DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until August 1956.EVALUATION COMMENT: A fair contribution to the study of the recent state of public opinion and population's feelings.

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Source lived with two Czech workers in a room of a workers' apartment-house in BRNO. They had a Czech "Opera" radio set with a short wave band. They listened to VOA, BBC and regularly at 2000 hours to RFE. Source was not very familiar with the Czech language and could not follow the broadcasts in Czech easily. His room-mates, however, were very pleased with RFE broadcasts. They said that RFE was well aware of all that happened in Czechoslovakia and behind the Iron Curtain with many details. Some of the news broadcast by RFE would be broadcast by Radio PRAGUE some days later but in a different way and grossly falsified. This made a great impression on the Czechs who did not trust the local stations.

As source heard, the Czechs also liked BBC for its many news broadcasts but did not compare it with RFE, whose programs described accurately the life of Czechs and of workers of the free world, which greatly influenced the Czech listeners.

He often heard the Czech workers at the factory in
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which he worked discuss what they had heard the previous night on the radio, and he often heard RFE mentioned, although as a rule the Czechs were very cautious in discussing political matters.

In source's opinion, the Western broadcasts, and especially those of RFE are "a matter of prime necessity to the Czechs." They also liked the music broadcast by RFE, for the Czechs are great lovers of American music. The young Czechs dance to American music and sing American tunes. They are greatly influenced by American music and the American way of life about which they are informed mainly through RFE.

At times RFE broadcasts were jammed, but source's room-mates changed wave bands, and they managed to hear the broadcasts clearly. Source believes that RFE broadcasts were heard most clearly on the 38.71 meters band at 2015 hours.

Local radio was discredited, source said. Its propaganda in hailing the Soviet Union as the greatest and most progressive power on earth exasperated the Czechs.

Source formed the opinion that there is no group of people with which the Communists are strong. Workers, farmers, employees, schoolboys and students are in the great majority anti-Communists. The Czech youths, in whom the regime takes a great interest, are no longer influenced by Communist ideas, for they hear their parents speak about the "good old times," and they realize that conditions of life were much better in pre-Communist days. Only those holding high offices in the government and in factories are still Communists, source said. However, there are many persons who pretend to be Communists in order to succeed in their careers. There are also many parents who have become members of the Party so that their children may be allowed to obtain a higher education. Source estimated at 10 per cent the proportion of Party members who are convinced Communists.

Source said that the only good aspect of the regime is that it did not increase the working hours over eight a day. Under the prevailing terrorism the working hours could have been increased, and the people would have been obliged to comply.

The worse aspect of the regime is the low standard of living. The wages and salaries are small in comparison with the cost of living. The Czechs compare their former prosperity with their present-day misery and hate the Communists. When the regime will be overthrown, nothing reminding them of Communism will remain. The Czechs, according to source, are in such a state of desperation that they wish to be rid of Communism and the Russians even with the help of German troops.

Source could not specify who are the most popular
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government and Party officials. He said that the Czechs in general hate all the Communist leaders alike.

Source was not aware of any form of resistance in Czechoslovakia. The Czechs, although they are dissatisfied with the present regime and on the whole are anti-Communists, do not show any willingness for resistance. They are afraid of the consequences and do not dare to begin a resistance movement by themselves without outside help, especially from America. Under the present conditions source believes it is very difficult for the Czechs to revolt. The government holds the reins firmly, and the Russians, who are interested in Czech industry, would crush any uprising against the existing regime.

Referring to destalinization, source said that except for the confusion which prevails among the Communists, there was no change. Destalinization weakened the Party, source said. A clear picture of the situation is given by the Greek Communists in Czechoslovakia, who are in a state of disintegration.

The great majority of the Czechs want their former democratic regime, the representatives of which they consider the Czech anti-Communists who have escaped abroad.

End.