

ITEM NO 04374/53

B/MP
R/2/508
23 Apr

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HEALTH AND RECREATION

Recreation

Spas, Resorts

POLICE AND SECURITY

Confidants

"AGENTS PROVOCATEURS" IN HEALTH RESORTS FREQUENTED BY
WORKERS

SOURCE ROME : An Italian, who legally left Czechoslovakia
in February 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Current period.

EVAL. COMMENT : The BOJNICE Spa is a well-known health
resort; however, the subject of this
report is UNCONFIRMED in our files.

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In the health resort BOJNICA, in Slovakia, i.e. in the
district of PRIEVIDZA, each season, patients suffering
from rheumatic and Arthritic pains take their cures.
Our source, who contracted Rheumatism following his try-
ing train journeys which he had to make day after
day to go to work, went to BOJNICA to be cured. Even
here the Czech political police arranged to have spies,
so-called patients who carefully listened to all remarks
or criticism they could gather in the hotels, at the
bath etc., where people, relaxing and non-suspecting
night easily express their real opinion on political
topics.

But quite a part from these casual "agents provocateurs"
there is a "permanent" one, the newspaper salesman,
whose activity is quite well-known. He is also the of-
ficial representative of the Communist Party, who can
interfere with BOJNICA's public life as he likes. For
instance he might enter the dining-room of a hotel and
call out to the guests, that the Party is having a

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meeting in the library, and that any of the guests who would like to be present, are welcome... Well, who can afford not "to like" to participate, as much as they would prefer to retire to their rooms and enjoy some real rest, instead! There are theater performances and other entertainments organized by the Party, and each of the actors or performers has to be an inscribed member of the Communist Party. Even the doctor in charge is compelled to participate at these performances, whether he likes it or not, because the Communists want to avail themselves of his prestige - but he might even be asked to give a speech etc. In fact our source was present when the doctor gave a report about the October revolution in the hotel ballroom - while the guests, one after the other slowly disappeared. The general impression was, that the doctor was definitely acting under the pressure exercised by the newspaper salesman who had, apparently, been given full power by the Party.

The patients are generally permitted to stay for three weeks in BOJNICA - seldom 4 weeks. Most of the patients are workers, and the women are not more than 15 to 20 per cent among them.

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