

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AGRICULTURE

Collectivization

TRADE

Food

Situation Of The Czech Agriculture

SOURCE ROME: A letter received from the ex-owner of a large farm in central Slovakia

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

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Since the industrialization of Slovakia the food situation has become much worse. Labor has continuously been taken from the agricultural sector, thus making the management of small farms impossible. On the other side the newly established collective farms are so poorly managed that their bad state is openly criticized by the farmers. There is especially a great lack of trained agronomes, veterinary surgeons, chicken breeders and above all farm laborers.

In the districts of Levice, Nitra, Hlohovec, some 75 per cent of the chicken stock of the agricultural cooperative died during an epidemic.

According to well informed members of the "Ustredny Druzstvo" and its joint cooperatives, there is a certain purpose in the impoverishment of agriculture; and several kolkhoz leaders will be sent from the USSR in the spring of 1952 to take over the management of the Czech agriculture. This assumption is confirmed by the construction of a governmental breeding center at MALACKY, which is to be built according to Soviet pattern.

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed. District Nitra, Hlohovec and Levice are situated northeast of BRATISLAVA in the county NITRA.