

1600
1900
1702
E

ITEM No 11821/52

LL
16 Sep
VI - 1980

RUMANIA

LABOR
Health
Work Protection

Protection Of The Laborer In A Communist Regime

SOURCE ROME: A building contractor, head of the construction team where there were complaints on lack of appropriate clothing and for the many cases of sickness among the workers following their taking-off the heavy outfits late in the afternoon.
DATE OF OBSERVATION: December 1951, January 1952.

* * * *

The manual workers, masons and specialists of various kind belonging to the governmental enterprise "7 Constructia" in GALATI had to bear great difficulties during the winter of 1951 to 1952.

The government had promised for some time "protective clothing," like fur-lined coats, quilted trousers of the Soviet type (pufoaice,) fur-lined caps and gloves so that the workers would be able to work outdoors also in the middle of the winter. But the working-team of the cement factory "Stanca," in BRAILA, composed of 200 men, received only : 150 caps, 100 pair of gloves, 50 fur-lined coats, and quilted trousers, which of course, were insufficient for all the men and technicians who were to work in the open. The problem was how to distribute them. The main and most disastrous problem for the workers was the fact, that, as soon as they entered the premises the clerks would equip them with this special outfit, and the men would be warm and comfortable during the day, while outside. But just toward evening when the cold became more intense, the workers would have to take off this warm outfit and slip into their own, light and cold clothes. Anyway, the factory's physician when checking on the results of this unhealthy and harmful procedure found many workers with TB. His statement, however, was considered "reactionary" and no protective measures were taken: the workers are still to hand back the "protective clothing" before going home in the evening. Another disadvantage is, that in this way nobody can keep his things clean, and that a man has to put on clothes worn by somebody else the day before, which certainly is not very hygienic. If the protective clothes are torn or damaged in any way, the bearer will be fined. There was suggested during one of the union's meetings to allow the workers to take these clothes home, so that they could be cleaned, mended etc.

But the delegates replied that in the Popular Rumanian Republic this problem no longer exists, because the workers are to come to work dressed in a "cojoc" (fur-lined coat,) so that they could not possibly catch cold.

(Over)

(cont'd)

Upon this declaration any interested workers asked how much a "cojoc" would cost them, but the sum mentioned is more than a two-month salary; and even at this price, the coats would only be available if "furs could be found."

But the Party is not interested in those problems. It does not care about the workers' needs. The truth is that the Communist Party is not interested in this generation of "reactionaries," which they cannot trust. The Party needs the youngsters, all those who are educated and brought up in the Marxist-Stalinian ideology.

EVAL. COMMENT: Consistent with similar reports; no full confirmation available. The "Stance" cement factory is located at BRAILA. The Constructia No.7 is located at GALATI.