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Nov 16
XV-543/bPOLANDINDUSTRYDifficulties in Production
Others/1700/
/1709/
/1707/STANDARD OF LIVING

Wages

/3200/
/3206/THE "RAFAMET" MACHINE TOOL PLANT IN KUZNIA RACIBORSKA.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: An ethnic German woman, 37, who worked as a bookkeeper in the "Rafamet" machine tool factory in KUZNIA RACIBORSKA from 1951 until her repatriation to West Germany in April 1956. Source is a fairly intelligent and observant woman, but she shows a tendency toward antagonism against Poles because of the hardship endured in post-war times. When referring to the opinion of people, source means the opinion of ethnic Germans, unless otherwise stated. She seems to be reliable.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until April 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Attention is drawn to the fact that the date of observation of this report is April 1956, this means that information about salaries, and Party and UB /Secret Police/ influence in the factory, which have changed since then, are outdated.

The full name of the factory in question is "Raciborska Fabryka Wytobów Metalowych" /for short "Rafamet"/.

None of the names of persons mentioned in this report was known to us before.

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The "Rafamet" machine tool plant /formerly Schondorf Hegenscheid Werke/ is the only important industrial installation in KUZNIA RACIBORSKA. This plant is engaged in mass production of two types of turret lathes. The average output of six to seven lathes per month amounted to only 60 to 70 per cent of the ten-lathe-per-month production plan. This low production was caused by poor materials which resulted in a high rate of rejects, particularly of castings made in the foundry of the plant. Fifty per cent of the production

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was exported to the USSR and forty per cent to the captive countries, Red China, and to some Western countries. Only ten per cent of the products, mostly those rejected by foreign customers, were sold on the Polish market. Source remembers that 30 lathes were exported to Argentina and about ten or twelve to India in 1955. As of April 1956, a great number of lathes, rejected by foreign customers, were stored in the plant owing to lack of demand. In many instances the lathes broke down during the one year guarantee period, or shortly thereafter. Workers used to call their products "13 months lathes" because most of them broke down at the latest after 13 months in operation.

The labor force of this plant was 1,400 personnel, mostly German ethnics. About 260 of them were employed in administration. The plant director was named Pawel BIELCA, the production chief Zbigniew ZBIERSKI, and the administration chief was Ludwik JAKUBIEC; all three were Party members. These key personnel had monthly salaries of between 1,800 and 2,000 zloty, plus regular monthly production premiums of about 1,400 zloty, plus special premiums of unknown amount. The wages of production workers ranged from 600 to 3,000 zloty, depending on the wage group classification of their jobs and the quantities produced. The latter in turn depended greatly on the quantity and quality of raw material, tools, and spare parts. The average wage of a skilled machine tool operator was 1,500 zloty against 600 zloty for an unskilled worker. /These figures include all premiums./ Individual production norms were filled on an average of 120 to 140 per cent. The maximum occasionally attained under exceptionally favorable circumstances was 300 per cent.

The Party book had great influence on the job classification of individual workers because all foremen were Party members and gave the best jobs to their comrades. Not only production workers, but also administrative personnel had to fulfill production norms. The latter were not paid piece-wages, but they got only a lump sum increase if they exceeded their norms. These lump sum payments ranged between 20 and 30 per cent of the basic salaries, depending on how much money was left over from the premium fund after the production workers and the key personnel had been paid their premiums. As a bookkeeper in the pay office, source had a basic salary of 600 zloty plus 65 zloty allowance for her first and 85 zloty for her second child. Including an average 25 per cent premium, her income totaled to 900 zloty per month from which 34 zloty were deducted for taxes. The lunch meal in the factory canteen, which was not too bad, cost five zloty.

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Political schooling of plant employees, which had formerly taken boring hours every week, was abandoned in 1955. After that date, only Party members had to attend regular meetings during work hours. A functionary of the UB, named /fnu/ JANUSZEWSKI, was detached to this plant until February 1956. /The name of his successor was unknown to source./ According to the official version of his assignment, this UB representative was responsible for security measures in the plant, but it was no secret that his true job was to spy on "unreliable" elements and to hire and supervise informers from among the personnel.

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