

ITEM No 13168

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LABOR
Foreign Labor
Relationships

New Workers At The Klement Gottwald Works At
POVAZSKA BYSTRICA

SOURCE ROME: No information available

DATE OF OBSERVATION: December 1951

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During the last two weeks some 500 Hungarian and Rumanian forced laborers were sent to work in the Klement Gottwald ammunition and arms factory at POVAZSKA BYSTRICA. Furthermore about 300 ex-employees from the Slovakian Administrative Service were added to the staff and were given a three-week course for reinstruction. All these persons are watched with special care as they are suspected to be reactionaries and saboteurs. But in reality they are quite harmless, showing great zeal in their work. For these reasons these one-time governmental officials and functionaries, judges, lawyers and municipal employees are very unpopular among the other workers.

Together with the employees originating from the governmental administration namely NOVISEDIAK (fnu), KRISTOV (fnu), KLABUCH (fnu), FILUS (fnu) and KUDLIC (fnu), and the former clerks, MAJTA-NOVA (fnu), BERKA-SEKOVA Stefania, MARINKOVICOVA Rosalia, KOLHUSOVA Marketa, the newcomers represent about 200 per cent of the normal manpower at POVAZSKA BYSTRICA. In a recent meeting of the workers' council the abovementioned workers complained that their fellow-workers are making life difficult for them. On the one hand, they are urged to work more, and on the other hand, when they accomplish their duties properly they are scoffed by the old workers.

For this reason a strange experiment will be tried out in the Gottwald Works, i.e. the newly-trained intellectuals will be divided into a separate group. In case this division of "classes" for work should prove successful the news system will be kept on. For the time being, however, the management hesitates to carry out this plan as several directors energetically expressed their disapproval. The final decision will be made only after a vote.

EVAL. COMMENT: Authenticity unknown. POVAZSKA BYSTRICA, a district town in the county ZILINA.