

MV  
June 21  
VII/2042

ALL COUNTRIES

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IMPARTED TO TRIESTE EMIGRES  
FROM VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

SOURCE TRIESTE: RFE News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Although highly uncritical, this report may be useful for Editors dealing with opportunities offered exiles in the West.

+ + +

Thanks to the efforts made by numerous free world relief organizations in 1951, TRIESTE already represented a safe area for anti-Communist emigration. All those who reached TRIESTE received moral and material aid, and were helped to build up a new life, quite different from the one which had compelled them to leave their old homes. Every new emigrant who reaches TRIESTE cannot help being surprised - after he feels a free man again - in finding an invitation to attend the TRIESTE Vocational Training School.

The TRIESTE Vocational Training School is constantly open to all refugees desirous to learn some kind of trade. There are no special formalities for the admittance; no questions are asked about their political past; no fees are demanded, and the refugees are relieved from certain duties within the camp, in order to be free to devote themselves to study only. Mrs. SOODLA, the head of the school, does not only offer to each refugee the possibility of dedicating himself to studies, but in a motherly spirit guides him to the trade corresponding to the degree of his educational background. Her teaching experience helps her in this choice. Six thousand Eastern Europe political refugees have passed through Mrs. SOODLA's office, and all those who have confidently and speedily accepted her advice, gratefully remember her, as their new life has taught them that without the certificate they obtained from the TRIESTE Vocational Training School, they could hardly have been able to build up their home and their happiness again overseas.

The TRIESTE Vocational Training School is financed by the World Council of Churches, headquarters in NEW YORK.

/more/

Funds are rationally used under the strict control of the head of the school. If we were to classify this school from the school staff headed by Eng. EZEROV, and from the results achieved, we could easily define it, without exaggeration, a Vocational Training "University" for the TRIESTE emigrants. This is proved by the thousands of grateful letters it receives from overseas countries, where its former pupils apply the knowledge and the skill they were taught in that school.

The matter taught in the school are:

mechanics section: automechanics, lathing, finishing, etc.

radiotechniques

carpentry in general

decorative drafting

hatmaking, and artificial flowers

photographic art

technical drafting

sewing

toymaking

decorative painting

horticulture, bee keeping /apiculture/.

The duration of the courses vary, as they mainly depend on the pupils' ability and efforts. Those pupils who have gone through the individual courses, appear before a special joint commission, composed of the school's own teachers, its head, and members from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of TRIESTE. Those who successfully pass the examination are given diplomas, which are divided into two categories, according to the results of the examinations: category I, which has the same value as the certificate issued by governmental secondary training schools and category II, which corresponds to the fifth course in a normal training school. Those who obtain a category I certificate, may continue their studies and appear before a commission of experts in order to go through a special examination. Having successfully gone through this test, they obtain another diploma which qualifies them as specialists in the trade they have chosen. The other pupils with an

/more/



initial category II diploma may undergo after due training, another examination in order to obtain a category I diploma and then decide whether to continue for the higher grade diploma.

Every year, the TRIESTE Vocational Trade Training School organizes an exhibit of the works done by the pupils, and it is an unforgettable demonstration of their creative genius. It takes several days to visit the whole exhibit, so many are the things to be seen.

The school's statistics prove that the Bulgarian political emigres in TRIESTE are the most numerous in the school: 41 per cent of the Bulgarians who stopped at TRIESTE have attended that school, and most of them have successfully gone through the courses.

On the whole, more than 2,500 emigres of 14 nationalities have attended the school; of this figure 1,500 successfully completed the course; 960 went through the examinations. More than 500 Bulgarian refugees attended the courses, 280 of whom obtained their diploma; 50 more are about to obtain it in the near future.

There are three Bulgarian teachers: Alexander VASSILEV from SOFIA for carpentry; Todor NACHEV from STAROPATIZA for horticulture and Nedelko PUEV from BOJNITZA for ladies' and gentlemen's clothes manufacturing.

The emigres who obtained their degree with the TRIESTE Vocational Training School are given a job in the new country where they go in accordance with their qualification. In the new world, where skilled manpower is highly appreciated, those who have a degree issued by the TRIESTE Vocational Training School have every good opportunity of obtaining a stable and well-paid job. Thanks to the technical preparation received in that school and the help given by the American relief organizations, many Bulgarians emigrating from TRIESTE to South American countries are now the proprietors of workshops and plants. There is not a single Bulgarian who completed his studies with that school who found any difficulty in settling in overseas countries. The letters these Bulgarians are writing to TRIESTE are full of optimism and they never fail to bless the moment in which, though feeling very uncertain and dejected, they decided to cross the threshold of the TRIESTE Vocational Training School.

By not indulging in laziness and vice, but devoting their time to study during their long stop in the

/more/

TRIESTE camps, the Eastern Europe emigrants acquire a sure trade and technical know-how which gives them the opportunity of poverty in the country where they are to emigrate. They thus become useful members to society, but mainly to themselves. It is the case here to refer to the popular saying which warns: "Help yourself, if you want to be helped."

End