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13 December 1951  
N.R/2/1633

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

INDUSTRY

Coal  
Ostrava

Discontented Miners In OSTRAVA KARVINNA Area

SOURCE ROME: A letter received clandestinely from a friend in Czechoslovakia.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: November 1951.

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The miners in the OSTRAVA-KARVINNA area have become so discontented that strong police forces were put on guard at the entrances of the mines. But in spite of these precautions acts of sabotage occur every day, which after are dangerous also for the miners themselves.

On 29 November 1951 an explosion in the "Gottwald" coal mines caused the death of two miners. The miners are very courageous and resolute and openly express their disapproval of the Government.

Strangely enough the police and military forces are favorable to the miners, and during the last week of November police and military forces had to be employed in the extraction of coal in several parts of the mines. Official statements, however, say that these forces reported for "voluntary work."

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed.