

LL  
16 July 1951  
VI-295

ROMANIAHEAVY INDUSTRY

The Metallurgic Works "Le Maitre," situated on the outskirts of BUCHAREST, were nationalized in 1948 and the title was changed to "Timpuri Noi."

Since the time of the nationalization the directors of this establishment have been changed several times, either for political reasons or for technical inadequacy. The present director is MALDOVEAN Ioan, Communist, formerly employed in the ammunition factory "Margineanca" in VALEA PRAHOVA. He receives a monthly salary of 50,000 Lei. Chief of Personnel is LAPUCA Constantin, Communist and a former laborer. Secretary of Personnel is Mrs. MOSCOVICI (fnu). They are all apparently connected with the Communist Party and with USSR.

The "Timpuri Noi" employs some 2,200 workers and some 400 apprentices. Since autumn 1949 a considerable number of epurated state employees and intellectual women have been employed in this establishment, after having attended a six months requalification course. This reform has, however, had a negative result, inasmuch as these "new" workers are unskilled and physically not fit for the work, so that they cause constant damage to the machinery. Since they must pay from their wages for such damages, which often are above their income, many escape. Nevertheless, instructions to employ "requalified" personnel are still in force.

According to Party dispositions, workers are obliged to adopt Soviet methods, especially on lathes for the rapid metal-cutting process, which, however, is inefficient.

"Timpuri Noi" is one of the most important industries in Rumania and for propaganda purposes workers are constantly subjected to socialist competitions. Such competitions are to the disadvantage of the workers, because in an effort to exceed established norms, such norms are constantly raised, whereas wages are reduced proportionately. At the regular meetings political agitators try to explain to the discontented workers that on account of its dynamism the socialist production systems require constant adjustment of production costs.

"Timpuri Noi" produces at present 25 HPS "Bolinder" engines, 20 HPS "Deutz" engines, centrifugal pumps, "Duplex" pumps, etc. The monthly production of engines amounts to 400 "Bolinder" engines, and approximately 1,000 "Deutz" engines. A small part of this machinery is assigned to collective state farms, whereas the major part is exported to Soviet Russia. Machinery exported to Soviet Russia is labelled in Russian.

LL  
16 July 1951  
VI-295RUMANIA  
(cont'd)

Immediately after the war and up to 1948 this establishment also produced locomotive boilers, which were sent to Russia in payment of war damages. Such boilers were constructed under the direct supervision of Russian technicians. Similar equipment for Soviet Russia was constructed at that time also by the establishments "Wolf" (now "Steana Rosie") and "Vulcan."

The 2,200 workers of "Tilpuri Noi" work in two shifts, one from 0600 to 1400 hours, the other from 1400 to 2200 hours. At the end of their shift workers have to attend the usual political, cultural, union and gymnastic meetings, which last for some two to three hours. In order to force workers to participate in such meetings the militia guards close all doors of the factory half an hour before the end of the shift, so that nobody can leave the factory.

In view of the high working norms, the wages are not sufficient for a living. An average worker earns some 10,000 to 12,000 Lei per month. To raise the morale of the workers, internal propaganda cites from time to time outstanding cases of workers who, "having correctly adopted Soviet methods," can constantly exceed their work norms, and are able to earn some 50,000 to 55,000 Lei per month. Workers, however, are not easily deceived by these propaganda tricks because they know that these "production heroes" are selected from the favored elements of the directorate and put to work on better machinery and with better material. The names of those awarded prizes are always the same and in the course of four to five months they are physically exhausted and often end in a tuberculosis sanatorium.

Workers are obliged to take one meal in the collective restaurant. Meals are distributed in three turns, because the premises are too small. The cost of such a meal is 20 Lei, and workers receive 250 grams black bread, vegetable or potatoe-soup and a dish of beans prepared with oil. Wednesdays and Fridays, both days when the Orthodox population does not eat meat, the collective restaurant prepares meat dishes to vex religious tradition. The same is done on the eves of religious holidays; during the holy week before Easter workers had to eat meals prepared of lamb.

The factory is watched by the Secret Police and by the militia. At the least incident during work the alarm bell rings and all workers must remain at their places. Secret Police then makes preliminary inquiries and arrests any suspects. The factory has eight fixed sentry posts, and guards armed with machine-guns are ready to defend "the property of the People" against possible saboteurs. Nevertheless, acts of sabotage occur frequently:



LL  
16 July 1951  
VI-295

RUMANIA  
(cont'd)

an engine is damaged for inexplicable reasons, control commissions notice that good material has been thrown out as waste whereas articles are manufactured with inferior material, and other times it is noted that working hours have been noted incorrectly.

A great fire broke out in February 1951 at five different points of the factory: two in the section for motors, two in different parts of the lathes section, and one in the foundry. This fire started at 2200 hours, i.e. at the end of the second shift. Alarm was given immediately and the Secret Police intervened. No great damage was caused. The Secret Police established that one or more criminal hands had put gasoline on wooden articles and put fire to it. 75 persons were arrested as suspects and deported to unknown destinations. Only in six cases could it be established that those arrested were really responsible for this act of sabotage.

The discontent of the workers is very strong. Of the 2,200 workers of the factory only some 50 or 60 are convinced Communists.

Since February 1951 a Military Commission has been recruiting specialized factory workers, to be engaged in the ammunition and armament factories of MARGINEANCA, ZARNESTI and FAGA-RASI. These workers are offered a special salary, to which a per diem allowance of 350 Lei is added, plus free lodging. Their monthly salaries will reach 45,000 to 50,000 Lei.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Present time

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable;  
Information: probably true, partly confirmed by other sources.