

LL
25 September 1951
VI/4/2/938

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LABOR
strikes
Heavy Industry

GENERAL MOOD
Anti-Communist Feelings

ANTI-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE SKODA WORKS

The following recent incidents are reported from the famous "SKODA" armament works at PLZEN:

18 August 1951: In one of the sections for the assembling of automatic treaded chassis-frames for anti-aircraft guns, the workers began a protest strike. Police was called in, as well as an armed Russian detachment stationed at SKODA. Neither the political authorities nor the Russian detachment got a chance to intervene because the person responsible for the protest strike was immediately removed and sent elsewhere. The workers resumed work only late in the afternoon because of time lost through questioning, inquiries, etc.

25 August 1951: In a factory for automatic small-arms at "SKODA" the same incident occurred. This time the question was not new regulations. The management had learned its lesson a few days before. Now it dealt with complaints regarding the poor sanitary conditions in the factory, and with an accident occurred the day before. One of the workers lost his hand in the gears of a machine and, as he was not treated in time, had to have his arm amputated.

Again the troops did not intervene, as this was not a political attack nor one aimed at the Socialist organization of the factory, but merely a collective criticism of a poorly organized factory. The result was the dismissal of the factory manager, who was publicly accused of not doing his duty toward his fellow-workers. The next day (26 August) a sanitary inspector was sent to the factory to determine what had to be done in order to eliminate further complaints.

4 September 1951: At the same "SKODA" plant in PLZEN a partial strike was called forth to protest against the

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failure of distributing meat. Meat was to be given to the workers twice a week, but since 1 September 1951 there had been no distribution. The workers reported to the factory, and then, at 10.30 hours, they shut off the power and stopped working. The workers although threatened with punishment still refused to work. The management was notified, and came down to speak to a workers' committee. The workers were promised their meat, and the next day they received it. No disciplinary action was taken against the workers. The workers' committee was composed of the most experienced workers of the section, who had been with SKODA for more than 20 years.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August - September 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable;
Information: possible, unconfirmed.