

V

ITEM NO. 11058/54

BS  
December 13  
XI - 1403

HUNGARY  
RUMANIA

STANDARD OF LIVING /3200/  
Prices /3204/  
Deportation /2201/  
Youth /3500/

INDUSTRY /1700/  
Factories /17011/

GREEK REPATRIATE COMPARES LIVING CONDITIONS  
IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

SOURCE ATHENS: A 51-year-old Greek repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1953 - 1954.

EVAL. COMMENT: /RUMANIAN/ The decrease of the standard of living in eastern direction departing from Czechoslovakia and East BERLIN, through Hungary and Rumania was reported by all visitors to these countries. The mentioned prices in the RPR are confirmed here.

/HUNGARIAN/: It is known here that some 1,500 Greeks were repatriated from Hungary to Greece in February 1954.

The village BELOJANNISZ which is located close to IVANCSA forms a part of that locality. A number of Greeks living in Hungary were concentrated in that village.

The conditions prevailing in the SZTALINVAROS building construction are correctly described. The income of a mason is correctly given. The years during which subsource worked in SZTALINVAROS were those of the most intensive construction period. In 1954 the new trend in Hungary considerably changed the aspect of SZTALINVAROS, and the construction works were almost completely suspended.

x x x

/more/

"Whereas in Hungary I earned enough to cover my household expenses and still have a surplus for clothing and recreation, in Rumania, I opened four new holes in my belt, for I had lost ten kilos within eight months," said a 51-year-old Greek repatriate to a stringer of ATHENS News Bureau, upon his arrival in SALONICA on October 29 1954.

From January 1951, till January 1954, the source worked as a mason in STALINVAROS, the new city that has been erected by the Danube. He earned between 1,400 and 1,600 Forints per month, with which he and his wife could live in comparative comfort.

He paid 78 Forints for rent, 150 Forints for heating and 700 Forints for food. He thus had a surplus of about 450 to 650 Forints per month, from which he could spend for clothing and recreation. His house consisted of a bedroom, a drawing room, a kitchen and a basement. Foodstuffs were plentiful and so were clothing items, although the latter were of a mediocre quality.

On the contrary, in Rumania almost everything was scarce and expensive. The source worked from January 1954 to October of the same year, at CRAIOVA in the 7 Noembrie factory, which employed about 1,500 workers in the production of agricultural machinery and tools.

He earned 300-350 lei per month, a sum which, was quite insufficient for his and his wife's subsistence. He was obliged to sell the radio he had bought in Hungary for 1,200 lei in order to buy foodstuffs.

Fish could be found in the market only twice or three times per month. They sold from 5,25 to 9,25 lei the kilo according to size, but in order to buy even half a kilo of fish one had to queue up for many hours, so that many people desisted of the attempt.

During the eight months source stayed in Rumania, only three times he succeeded in buying meat with the coupon. The only cheap thing in Rumania, source said, was the rent. /more/



For one fairly comfortable room he paid 15 lei per month. For electricity he paid 2,80 lei per month for one electric bulb, for there were no meters. He also paid one lei per month per person for water and for the collection of garbage.

Source lived before his deportation with his wife and three children in the village of SLIMNITA in District Kastoria. In June 1947, the Greek Communist guerrillas drove all the inhabitants of the village to Albania, where they stayed for over two years.

In November 1949, source and his wife were sent to Hungary and their children to a children's camp in Rumania. For seven months source and his wife stayed at BALATONFURED and were then sent to erect the village of BELOYANISZ. Source was one of the 1,500 or so workers employed in the project.

Till December 1951, they built 412 houses, many shops, a school, a large canteen, a cinema, and the administration offices. During this period the workers were quartered in a nearby sugar factory, which was not functioning at the time.

In December 1951, source and his wife were sent to the site where STALINVAROS was to be built. When they arrived there no structure had yet been erected. When the source left in January 1954, many apartment-houses had been built and many others were under construction.

The city's water-supply system had been completed when source had left. A filtering station had been constructed and water from the Danube was supplied to the completed buildings.

An electricity generating plant had also been completed, supplying electric light to the city and power to the factories, which were being built at one edge of the city. The buildings of several of these factories had already been completed and machinery was being brought and installed. Only trusted workers supplied with a special identity card were permitted to work in the city's industrial area. For

/more/

ITEM NO. 11058/54  
/ cont'd /

3

this reason source did not know any details about the factories under construction, except that they formed an impressive mass of buildings.

What these factories would produce was a matter of speculation among the workers of the apartment-houses . It was being said, however, that they would produce "everything from needles to aircraft."

End