

POLICE AND SECURITY      CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
Fire Police  
RESISTANCE AND CRITICISM  
Sabotage

B/D  
I/10578  
19 June

Rumored Sabotage Destroys Valuable Kolkhoz Buildings.

SOURCE FRANKFURT : This report was contained in a letter to source, a 37-year-old ethnic German who escaped to the West in December 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : April 1953

EVAL. COMMENT : The subject is UNCONFIRMED here, as it is reported for the first time. Fires are no longer reported in the Czechoslovak press and, therefore, are difficult to confirm.

All localities, except that of LISCHKA  
/which should read LISKA/ are confirmed here.

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At the end of April 1953 two kolkhoz buildings built in 1950 at a cost of 11 million Kčs /pre-currency reform/ in the small border village of NOVÉ VÍSKY near HORNÍ POUŠTEVNA and MIKULÁŠOVICE in Sluknovský výběžek were burnt down, according to a letter received by source from his parents living there. These buildings were the property of the kolkhoz belonging to the "Československé státní statky" and comprised a barn and a combined cowshed and pigsty for a large number of animals including about 120 cows.

Before the firemen from MIKULÁŠOVICE and neighboring villages could come to the assistance of the NOVÉ VÍSKY firemen another fire started in a large barn at 10 km distant LISCHKA so that the firemen did not know which village to help first, and by the time they arrived only ashes remained from all three buildings.

Such fires are frequent in the SLUKNOV district, and, before the reciprocal visits of GOTTWALD and PIECK, were attributed by Red propaganda to the ethnic German population. Now, when current Communist policy fosters good relations between Czechs and Germans, such fires are asserted to be acts of Western imperialist agents. Newspapers and radio carefully avoid referring to such incidents.

This letter does not mention any arrests following on those particular fires.