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Nov 27  
XI-1950/A

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	(1700)
Heavy	(1704)
Light	(1704)

<u>LABOR</u>	(1900)
Wages	(1910)
Working Conditions	(1910)

TRACTOR SPARE PARTS FACTORY IN BRNO

SOURCE ATHENS: A 37-year-old Greek repatriate farmer and worker.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until August 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The plant described here is probably "Juránovy Zavody, n.p." in BRNO-HORNI HERSPICE. The conditions discussed in this report are in line with what is known on similar enterprises. Some material on "Juránovy Zavody" is available in this office.

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Source, a farmer from Macedonia who was forcibly recruited by the Greek guerrillas and was sent to Czechoslovakia in 1951, worked in BRNO from 1953 until his repatriation in August 1956, in a plant producing spare parts for "Zetor" tractors. Source who learned only a few words of Czech said that the plant was called "Youranovi Zavod."

The plant was a large German factory, located in the western part of the city. The main building, which had three stories, was old but well built of concrete. The first floor had two large well illuminated halls in which the plant's heavy machinery was installed. The second floor contained the lighter machinery, and on the third floor were the plant's offices. During the time source worked there, only slight repairs and additions were made to the plant.

The plant employed about 400 workers and employees. The workers were paid on the basis of a norm from 20 to 60 Kcs a day. Source, who worked as a lathe turner, often exceeded the

(over)

norm and earned an average of 1,700 Kcs a month. From this amount a sum of about 500 Kcs was retained for rent, water, electricity, fuel, one meal per day and for labor union and social security contributions. The social security contribution amounted to 3.5 per cent of the wages.

At the beginning of each month the workers were given coupons which entitled them to one meal per day at the plant's canteen. The food was not bad, but the portions were small, and source, like the other workers, left the canteen always hungry.

Separate meetings were often held in each department of the plant. The workers were kept after their work, and the plant's director or some other Party member spoke to them. Source, not being familiar with the Czech language, did not attend these meetings, except once when the plant's director reprimanded the workers for not attaining the norm. The workers were always weary of these meetings.

The workers were not pleased with their work and continuously grumbled, as source understood, that their work was hard, and their earnings not sufficient to cover their everyday expenses. They worked without stimulus and were not interested in exceeding the norm. Even some sabotage to the machinery occurred in the factory, and as source heard, the culprits were sent to the coal mines or imprisoned.

In source's opinion, only 20 per cent of the plant's personnel were Communists, but source doubts whether they were convinced Communists, rather that they pretended to be for reasons of personal profit.

There were many loudspeakers in the plant, transmitting broadcasts of Radio PRAGUE. Interminable propaganda talks on the progress achieved in the Soviet Union and in Czechoslovakia were transmitted only too often. The workers, source said, listened to these broadcasts with "deaf ears."

The plant's machinery was all of German make. Source never visited any other department except the one in which he worked and which contained lathes of various types.

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