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16 October 1951
VI-1099

RUMANIA

INDUSTRY

THE BRAILA POWER STATION

The BRAILA Power Station is situated at 1 Piata Fortunei (Square) and produces 3,000 KW per hour. This is the normal production, but when necessary the plant can reach an output of 4,500 KW h. The normal production is about 70,000 KW a day, but the plant must produce 98,000 a day to accomplish the quota set by the Five-Year-Plan.

The power plant supplies the whole city with electricity. Much of the electric power is used by the large metallurgic industries such as the IMD located at Bariera Regala. This factory consumes from 25 to 45 per cent of the total output. The Franco-Romana Co. consumes from 25 to 35 per cent of the output. For this reason it is necessary for the Power Company to supply electricity by turns. For example: During a given week the IMD receives power by night and the Frano-Romana Co. receives it by day.

Machinery found at the plant:

- three pressure boilers of 30 atmospheres each;
- two steam turbines (not hydraulic) of 3,000 HP each;
- four Diesel engines from 400 to 600 HP each;
- two pumps which take water the Danube to feed the turbines and boilers.

The installation of a pressure boiler of 50 atmospheres is under way which will eventually feed a turbine of 5,000 HP.

The directors of the power station are worried about procuring this turbine as there are none of domestic manufacture, nor does it seem likely that one might be imported from Soviet Russia.

It seems that there are only three turbines in the region, and the directors do not know which one to use in order to solve the problem, since taking one of them would deprive another plant of its turbine. The boilers were ordered from the Vulcan factory in BUCHAREST which is now working on three other boilers that should be delivered in the fall of 1951. Only one boiler has been ready since 1950 but it does not work. Soviet and Rumanian technicians have been studying the problem but have not been able to find out why it does not work conveniently.

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Staff of the Power Station:

The three power station BRAILA, GALATI and COMANESTI have their own local administration offices, but the central administration office is at GALATI. The general manager of the three power plants is KAHAN (fnu) of Armenian origin, who lives at GALATI. The manager of the BRAILA plant is 45-year-old Communist GEHERSIE Constantin, an ex-lathe operator who worked with the Fernic Co. at GALATI and who was appointed to this new post in the fall of 1950.

Chief engineer, TOPIC Virgil, 30, is a nationalist;
Engineer IONESCU Silviu, 37, is a reserved type of a man who does not take part in the union meetings as he is somewhat deaf.

The electrical engineer, whose job it is to repair all high-tension wires etc. is STERN Iancu, a native of Bessarabia. STERN is a Party member who persecutes all non-Communist workers.

The cashier is a woman (fnu) who comes from GALATI. The cashiers are very often replaced. The last two were SCHARTZ (fnu), a member of the Communist Party and STOLANOVIC (fnu), a Polish Rumanian.

The general manager of the GALATI plant receives 42,000 Lei a month, while the manager of the BRAILA and COMANESTI plants receive 30,000 Lei a month. The engineers are paid 22,000 Lei; the cashier 18,000 Lei; the technicians 14,000 Lei and the workers 4,500 Lei a month. The men work in three shifts. Those who work in the night shift receive an additional 15 per cent of their salary.

At the BRAILA plant there are 92 workers in the plant itself, 80 linemen and 60 clerks.

The workers were forced to attend a course in MARXISM and LENINISM. Their teacher, a non-Communist, was LISOVSKI Stan, of Polish origin and native of ODESSA. He was assigned to this post because of his perfect knowledge of Russian, which was necessary inasmuch as the material of the course was written in Russian. But the workers could not answer the teacher's question. Despite the fact that they had read the same things over and over again they could not understand anything.

The cafeteria at the power plant was "sabotaged by the workers because the food was so poor."

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable
Information : very probably true