

11 December 1951

VI-1608

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LABOR

Foreign Labor

INDUSTRY

Textile

Raw Materials

Difficulties in Production

Czechoslovakia Requests 2,000 Specialists From Eastern Germany

SOURCE ROME: From diplomatic channels

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Not specified

Czechoslovakia requested the East German Communist Government to put at her disposal 2,000 experts and experienced workers who worked in the so-called "Ersatz" production during World War II. The Czech Communists were forced to ask the help of their German comrades since all efforts to find sufficient personnel to switch the textile industry on to the "Ersatz-system" had failed. Most experts in these "Ersatz-system" were Sudeten-Germans, expelled from Czechoslovakia in 1945.

At present Czechoslovakia is going through a heavy crisis in the production of the textile industry. There are no wool-raw-materials and the government is therefore trying to save the desperate situation by returning to the former German system of the "Ersatz" production. This decision was reached after it appeared that the nation-wide collection of old wool materials could not provide even part of the required quantities, and the Western boycott and lack of foreign currency made it impossible to import wool raw material necessary to run the once famous textile industry.

The negotiations regarding the 2,000 experts were held in October 1951 between the representatives and officials of the Czech and East German Communist Parties. One of the top economic functionaries of the Czech Communist Party, VOMASTEK Frantisek, directed the negotiations on the part of Czechoslovakia.

According to reliable sources, VOMASTEK offered the East German experts excellent working conditions which are far better than those of Czech experts on the same level.

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed; similar case reported in our Item No. 10745 when East German miners were requested by the Czechoslovak authorities. Name VOMASTEK Frantisek not previously known.