

ITEM NO 06066/53

K/MP  
I/10530  
18 June

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JUSTICE

Courts

Sentences

Peoples Judges

Communist Justice

RED TEEN-AGE FEMALE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

SOURCE FRANKFURT : 23-year-old ethnic German employed from 1949 until November 1952 in a brickyard in LIPKOVICE where he beat up a fellow worker who owed him money. Source was arrested and brought before the district court at DUCHCOV. He was legally deported from the CSR on the expiration of his sentence in April 1953.

Source is a simple, quarrelsome young man, whose bellicose temperament was more responsible for getting him out of CSR than his political opinions. He appears to be reliable and gives the impression of telling the truth.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : April 1953.

EVAL. COMMENT : This report confirms the well-known manner in which Communist justice is applied. However, the circumstances of subsource's arrest and trial could not serve as a typical example of the present Communist jurisdiction. The lack of experience and of scrupulousness of the people's judges is a well known fact. SLEZALOVA Helena is unknown here and has not been previously reported. This report should serve for information only.

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A 19-year-old Red female public prosecutor who favored her Communist friends and had not even completed her legal studies was the phenomena that confronted source when he was brought to trial at the district court in DUCHCOV in November 1952.

Source, an ethnic German and former worker at the brickyard MOSTECKE KERAMICKE ZAVODY in the LIPKOVICE works No 3, was charged with beating up a fellow-worker who

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owed him money and attacking the members of a Hungarian family who come to his victim's rescue. Source was arrested and confined pending trial in the prison at BILINA.

The court building is on the square opposite the Labor office and SNB station in DUCHCOV. The court was presided over by one professional judge /NU/, two people's judges /NU/, and the teen-age public prosecutor, SLEZALOVA Helena. For a small unimportant case like source's there was no jury. Source did not have a lawyer but defended himself as he spoke Czech quite well. The witnesses arraigned against him were the members of the Hungarian family, source's boss from the brickworks POPONKA /fnu/ and his wife, and of course the victim SPACEK Václav with his wife.

Source does not remember very much about the way his trial was conducted, but the prosecutor SLEZALOVA made a long speech in which she contrived to present source's offence as a political crime, accusing him of not behaving like a true Communist because he did not leave justice in the hands of the people's court. Certainly source lost the case and was sentenced to five months hard labor and damages.

According to what source was told by fellow-prisoners, this state prosecutor SLEZALOVA was a 100% Red who had studied law in PRAHA but never completed her training. Source believed she was also responsible for deciding whether prison terms for minor sentences up to ten years should be shortened. The prisoners at the HIPKOVICE forced labor camp where source was also sent could appeal to have their sentences reduced, in which case their appeals were sent to SLEZALOVA. She frequently visited the camp to enquire about the prisoners' behavior and their morale. The prisoners were divided into three categories in the camp. Group three was for prisoners who worked well, and most of the old German prisoners were in this group which also included source. Certain privileges were allowed according to the group, and prisoners in group three were allowed to have a visitor once every fourteen days.

Source does not know of any case where SLEZALOVA was actually responsible for reducing the sentence of a prisoner with a long term of imprisonment. About once a year on some anniversary a few prisoners would be

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pardoned for working well as an inducement to others to work harder so that they too might get their sentences remitted. Source was told of such an occasion on Miner's Day one Sunday in September 1952.

Source says that SLEZALOVA could however influence the sentence imposed in smaller cases as the following incident shows. Source was removed from the DUCHCOV court to BILINA prison in a police car together with a Communist functionary, a miner /NU/ from a coal mine in OSEK. This man was accused of having shot another man in the leg during a brawl at an inn. He was allowed to possess a revolver because he was a member of the guard at the mine. A non-Communist would have been brought before the district court and severely sentenced, but this Red was released from BILINA prison after only five days detention without trial because, as source was told by a prisoner who shared the cell with the Red, SLEZALOVA recognized him as an old acquaintance and intervened to have him released.

Source was not able to give any other information on the activities or background of this girl.

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