

SPECIAL ATTENTION: FEP

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Nov 23
XI-1948CZECHOSLOVAKIAFOREIGN RELATIONS /1500/
Foreigners /1501/MORALE /2000/
Anti-Communist Feeling /2004/
Public Opinion /2005/AUDIENCE ANALYSIS INTERVIEW WITH A GREEK REPATRIANT.

SOURCE ATHENS: A 45-year-old Greek repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until August 1956

EVALUATION COMMENT: VIR, a dam-site in District BYSTRICE NAD
PERNSTEJNEM, former working place of about 200 Greeks, is well
known.

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Source, an illiterate Greek peasant from Macedonia, worked as an unskilled worker in the VIR hydroelectric project. He led a very quiet and economic life and managed to save 800 Kcs to buy a "Tesla" radio set with three tubes. As he was not familiar with the Czech language, he listened only to the Greek stations of ATHENS and SALONIKA and very rarely to Greek broadcasts of VOA and BBC. Source was not interested in international politics and never talked about such matters to the Czechs or other Greeks. His only concern was to return to Greece, and if he bought the radio set, it was because he felt homesick and felt some relief in listening to Greek songs.

Source never heard of RFE and was not in a position to say if RFE broadcasts or those of other foreign stations influenced the Czechs. He formed the opinion, however, that the great majority of Czechs are anti-Communists and very unhappy. They all are waiting with anxiety for the day of their liberation which, in their opinion, will come only with the help of the Americans. Source believes that the Czechs will not rise in revolt as the Hungarians or Poles did, for they feel that any insurrection would be doomed to failure without decisive help from the West.

The Czech workers who lived in the same apartment-house with source owned radios and did not seem to take any
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special precautions in listening to foreign stations. |

Source never saw a leaflet but happened to see some balloons waft over the VIR area, and one of them dropped there, as he heard, but he was not informed if it contained leaflets or anything else, for the police immediately picked it up. A balloon had also dropped some time in 1953, after the Czech currency reform. It contained a large amount of the new currency which many people found and used to buy things.

Source, not knowing the Czech language had virtually no connections with the Czechs and could not say much about their opinions, prospects and desires. From other Greeks he heard that the Czech people expected a change for the better after the repudiation of STALIN, whom they considered mainly responsible for all the evils of the past. Yet up to the time of his departure in August he had not observed any change in everyday life.

Referring to TITO, source said that recently he had become the most popular figure among the leaders of the Communist world.

The only good aspect of Communism, source said, was free medical care. The patients were well treated at the hospitals, and the doctors took good care of them, as source had the opportunity of observing personally during a stay of two weeks in the hospital in NOVE MESTO near VIR, following an attack of pneumonia.

Source was in no position to answer any other questions of the Audience Analysis Interview Schedule.

End.