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FIRE-FIGHTING TRAINING AND SECURITY MEASURES IN HUNGARIAN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

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CIVILIAN FIRE BRIGADE IN HUNGARIAN FACTORY

Factory workers selected from both large and small industrial plants are being given fire-fighting courses under the tutelage of professional firemen. A prescribed number of workers in each plant take this training, which is given in the large industrial establishments.

Up to 1 December 1951, the training courses comprised two 2-hour classes per week. After this date, a third 2-hour class per week was added. Anyone failing to attend a class is fined 10 forints for the first offense, and 20 to 30 forints for subsequent offenses. The classwork calls for strenuous physical exertion, although women and girls are included in the classes.

In the Duna Shoe Factory, Joseph Stark, a member of the Ujpest Fire Brigade, is in charge of the training course. Classes are held from 1700 to 1900 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On one occasion Mrs Lippai (fnu) was fined 30 forints for being late for reasons beyond her control (she had to nurse her infant who was in a nursery.)

SECURITY MEASURES AT THE NITROGEN FACTORY AT PETFURDO

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In September 1951, the Nitrogen Works in Petfurdo, which produces chemicals for explosives and fertilizer, was placed under constant AVH (Allamvedelmi Hatosag, State Security Authority) surveillance.

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The entire plant is surrounded by a 3-meter-high reinforced-concrete wall. Inside the wall, within the plant compound, guard stations have been established at 100-meter intervals. During the night, a two-man guard detail accompanied by a watchdog patrols the wall area, so that it is impossible for anyone to approach the wall undetected. Furthermore, all entrances to the building and the compound are guarded by employees in civilian clothes. In the various buildings, 30 - 40 AVH men disguised as factory workers patrol constantly.

Access to the factory compound or one of its buildings is possible only with a pass issued by the local AVH commander. There are two types of passes: (1) The yellow pass, issued to construction workers, which entitles the holder to be in the factory compound from 0700 to 1800 hours. To remain in the compound longer, he must get special permission from the AVH commander. (2) The blue pass, issued to all factory personnel. However, the holder can enter only the building whose number is denoted on the pass. The blue pass is valid only when accompanied by an assignment card, which indicates the shift on which the holder works. Each month, new stamps are pasted on both passes, to confirm the extension of the assignment and to certify the validity of the pass.

Passes are procured as follows: Anyone who desires admittance to the Nitrogen Works must first see the party secretary of the plant and obtain a letter of recommendation for an entry pass, which he takes to the AVH commander for final approval. If the AVH approves, the applicant receives the pass. Frequently, however, the AVH rejects such requests despite the recommendation of the party secretary.

A similar system is used in the Petroleum Industry Enterprise. In this case, the passes of the factory workers are white and are good for any building; they are valid only when shown with an assignment card. The passes of construction workers are marked with a red stripe.

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