

Page Denied

STAT

STAT

DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION AT KAZINCBARCIKA, HUNGARY

Uj Hungaria
Munich, 24 Sep 1954

According to our Vienna office, the Political Committee of the Hungarian Workers Party has issued a report stating that the construction and equipment of the Kazincbarcika project have been delayed, and that Lajos Szijjarto, Minister of Building, is mainly responsible for the delay. The Political Committee gave Szijjarto only a warning and ordered the appropriate ministries to complete the construction by the target date.

This official communique, which, significantly, was issued by the Politburo rather than the Council of Ministers, brings out into the open the scandal which has been whispered about in Hungary for a year. In Kazincbarcika, the "socialist city" situated on the Sajó River, it is planned to build Hungary's largest nitrogen fertilizer plant. In addition to supplying strategic chemical materials to the USSR, this plant is to supply northern Hungary with fertilizer. According to the plan, parts of the power and fertilizer plants were scheduled to begin production in May of this year; however, this goal was not accomplished.

Kazincbarcika is one of those typically Communist construction projects which Kravchenko described in his book. Despite protests by the Hungarian experts, construction was started according to the Soviet pattern. With no provision made even for workers' housing, thousands of construction workers and mechanics were taken to Kazincbarcika. Men and women were housed together in primitive and filthy barracks. The simplest hygienic facilities were absent; the food supply was poor; and if the workers wanted to prepare food for themselves, they were forced to steal fuel from the buildings under construction.

The various construction trusts settled down to work, cooperating with one another only occasionally; to meet the target dates, they stole construction materials from each other at night. One brigade disassembled what another brigade had built next door, in an effort to find iron and brick for the plan fulfillment.

Kazincbarcika quickly became the terror of Hungarian workers; it was considered a slave labor camp, and those who could escaped. Worker migration was even greater than at Szatlnvaros, where it is also substantial. Because of the great labor shortage, underworld elements from Budapest moved to Kazincbarcika, looting with impunity and thereby increasing the bad reputation of the "socialist city." The luckless boys and girls who were forced to work there became dissolute in this environment, and their parents did their utmost to obtain their release. According to the unrealistic plan, 40,000 modern homes were to be built, and the power plant was to furnish them with heat and hot water. Actually, however, only a few were completed; they were subsequently converted into barracks and conditions in them became indescribable.

Machinery for the chemical works and power plant was supplied by various large Hungarian, Czechoslovak, and East German factories. These factories delivered the machinery as scheduled, but there was no place to install it at Kazincbarcika. Delicate machinery lay in the rain and snow for months. In one case, the assembly of the machinery was begun in one of the shops of the power plant before there was even one wall standing. On one side the machinery was being assembled and

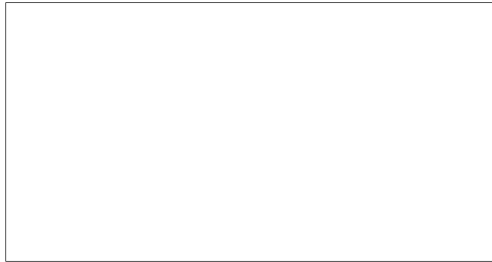
STAT



on the other side the scaffolding was being started. In the general chaos, naturally, certain components and accessories were always missing, so that none of the shops could start operations.

Since Kazincbarcika has been unable to fulfill any of its delivery commitments, Moscow expressed disapproval; as a result, Szijarto was singled out as scapegoat.

- E N D -



STAT