

REPORT

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Czechoslovak Bureau of Posts and
Administration of Communications in
Liberec

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1. The Bureau of Posts and Telecommunications in Liberec is responsible to the Ministry of Posts in Prague. The Communications Administration is in charge of the entire telephone network in Liberec and is also responsible for all construction and discontinuation of certain telephone lines. Work squads are available for these projects. Each office has one working squad composed of seven skilled workers, one chief, one truck and one automobile. The administration is also responsible for working squads from Rumburk, Česká Lípa, Bor u České Lípy and Liberec.
2. The Communications Administration has at its disposal so-called lightning squads stationed in the above named towns. A lightning squad consists of five skilled workers, one administrator, one truck and a motorcycle for each member of the squad. These squads are used for repair of damage caused by storms, wind, snow etc.
3. In Liberec there was an additional cable squad consisting of 30 skilled workers who care for the underground cable network. This squad has two buses at its disposal.
4. The working squad in Rumburk worked mainly in Wansdorf's closed textile factories where they dismantled telephone lines. All the machinery from these factories was sent to Slovakia and the factories themselves were converted into warehouses. All building material, telephones, switchboards were delivered to the warehouse in Liberec. These warehouses are under the Administration of Communications for Liberec.
5. Private telephone lines are not being installed at present. Lines for the STB, SNB and the Communist Party are installed only by workers who are particularly reliable and loyal to the Communist regime. These are the only private lines in Czechoslovakia since 1946. In cities private lines are almost all underground and only occasionally on poles. The STB and the Communist Party have their own switchboards operated by Party members. All official calls are made on Communist Party lines. In this manner okreses are connected with kreis and kreis with the central switchboard in Prague. The various precinct stations of the SNB are inter-connected by field telephone cables strung on trees and poles. In addition to these private lines each SNB and STB station and Communist Party secretariat have normal telephone lines from the post office.
6. The directorate of the Administration of Communications has offices on the fourth floor of the building located in the heart of Liberec. This directorate employs some 1500 persons, of whom 600 are clerks and the remainder skilled workers and auxiliary workers from all of the Liberec Kreis.

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7. Wages and bonuses are based on piece work rates. The highest basic pay of a skilled worker was 5,200 crowns per month. The highest bonus paid was 2,000 crowns per month.
8. About 60% of the communications personnel were members of the Communist Party. Only 20% were true to the regime.

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