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INFORMATION REPORT



COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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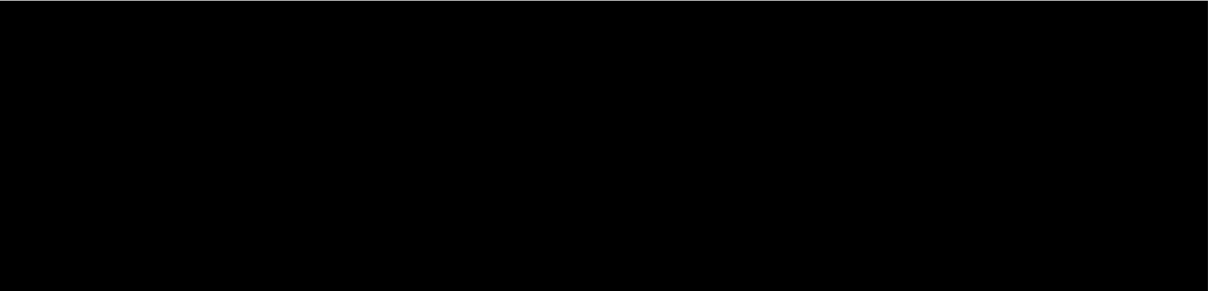
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X6



- 1. Ing. Ludmila Jankovcova, Minister of Food, daily gets large numbers of anonymous letters complaining about the sorry food situation. The letters are usually signed with such names as Antonie Hubena, Hladova, Nenastilova ("Hungry", "Skinny", etc.). The following are excerpts from some of these letters:

"It is all well and good that we are celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the abolition of serfdom, but how about the regular Sunday work brigades in which we are forced to participate? Are they not serfdom?...!"

"We are dining and stuffing Greek children, but our own children are suffering from undernourishment...."

- 2. Some time ago, in an attempt to counteract the "rumors" about Czechoslovak shipments of butter to the East, Minister Jankovcova promised a T-4 special yearly ration card to anybody who could specify concrete instances of such exports. This announcement, according to informant, started a flood of letters, especially from railroad employees, specifying the dates, car numbers, destination, and contents (butter, sugar, flour, potatoes, cattle) of shipments to the Eastern European countries. In informant's estimation, 90% of these shipments went to the Russian Zone of Germany.

- 3. Letters containing threats are not rare. The following letter, received recently, was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers:

"Soon the day of reckoning will come and you will all be sitting behind bars. Tonda Lopata ("Shovel", referring to Zapotocky) has already been designated as 'kapo', having had a first class experience in that type of work with the Dutch, so you have something to look forward to!"

- 4. In answer to a steady stream of complaints of students, tradesmen, and housewives (for whom no special rations have been authorized), Minister Jankovcova said to her secretary: "Tell them that the original proposals of our Ministry were rejected by the Cabinet and that something completely different was voted. Let them take their complaints to Prasna Brana". [REDACTED] Comment: Communist Party Headquarters is meant.)

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5. Bohumil Bilek, former rightist Social Democrat and secretary of Ministry Majer, today is a fanatical Communist and "expert" in the Ministry of Food. He writes Jankovcova's public speeches.
6. In August 1948 Minister Jankovcova received a letter from the District Committee of the Communist Party in Chrudim inviting her to come to Chrudim without delay and deliver one of her "masterly public addresses in order to counteract the public addresses of Archbishop Beran and Monsignor Tylinek, who have spoken cleverly against our Marxist ideology and have shattered the working morale of the Sunday brigades by their statements: 'Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy', and by their reference to the supremacy of the spirit over matter".
7. Presidium Chief Ctibor (formerly Tibor) Brieger, a Jew of Hungarian origin, is referred to as "the villain" of the Ministry of Food. It is reported that he wields considerable power and that Jankovcova must make concessions in everything. Brieger is also a member of the Economic Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. He negotiates purchases of meat and fats in Rumania, Poland, and Hungary. The supply of meat is reported to be "catastrophically low". The monthly domestic production is as a rule exhausted by the middle of the month and the rest must be purchased abroad. Full details are not available. It is further reported that Czechoslovakia has recently been buying meat from Argentina through intermediaries in Holland.

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