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Country: Albania/Czechoslovakia/Hungary/Yugoslavia

Subject: Mining Developments

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Place Acquired:



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SOURCE:



1. "ALBANIA"

Albanian Mining Scheduled for Peak Production--Output of the Albanian mining industry is to be boosted by 300 percent of the 1950 production during the last year of the current Five-Year-Plan, that is, in 1955. While 2,136,000,000 lei were invested in Albania's mining industry during the first Five-Year-Plan (1946 to 1950), the amount for the second Five-Year-Plan (spanning from 1951 to 1955) will be 8,943,000 lei.

Chromium ore will be produced to an extent of 120 thousand metric tons during 1955, as against 50 thousand metric tons recorded in 1950, and 70 thousand metric tons claimed as the 1952 production.

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The copper mines are to produce enough copper ore to gain a total of 2,500 metric tons of refined copper during 1955, as against the claimed actual production of 900 metric tons during 1952.

Copper ore production for 1952 exceeded the 1951 production by 98.9%, chromium ore by 15.3%, and copper concentrate by 59%, the Communist government of ENVER HOXHA claims.

Great importance is ascribed to the innovation and rationalization drive in Albanian mines; Soviet mining experts are conducting the work in the mines, and are aided by 'thousands of Albanian workers who participate in the improvement suggestion drive,' the Albanian press said recently [April 1953].

2. "CZECHOSLOVAKIA"

Minister for Mining Affairs Fired-- Claimed to leave his post as Mining Minister on account of ill health, and based on an application to relieve him from the post he held for three years, Mr Bilek was replaced by the former Deputy Minister for State Planning, Raicmayer, soon after President Gottwald died and Zapotocky took over the government.

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Bilek, 48-year old former miner, never was accused of tolerating shortcomings in the Czech mining industry, and never made responsible for the always short production of iron ore and coal. Instead, the specified mining enterprises were openly criticized. Despite the fact, however, that Bilek was not fired for the obvious shortcomings in production, it seems apparent that Zapotocky wants a tougher man as head of the Mining Ministry. As such, Racimayer achieved fame when pushing through production plans.

3. "HUNGARY

Hungarian Bauxite Deposits Largest of World's Total--Estimated to have a volume of 300 million metric tons, the Hungarian bauxite mines participate with 10% of the world's total, and 60% of Europe's wealth in this mineral.

Reports from Budapest say that about 50% of the total production is processed domestically, while the rest is being exported to the East. New deposits were proven in the BAKONY Mountains, about 10 miles west of Hungary's capital, Budapest [April 1953].

Construction work of an ore dressing plant near GYOENGYSOROSZI is nearing the end, reports from Budapest say. The plant is supposed to process mainly ores not suited for dressing in the existing plants. (Sic).

4. YUGOSLAVIA

More Iron and Steel for Tito--The Yugoslav iron and steel industry, 100% nationalized, has achieved a raw iron production of 270 thousand metric tons during 1952, thus exceeding the pre-war [World War II] level (of 105 thousand tons) considerably. The raw steel production rose to 460 thousand metric tons.

During the next three years, the production plan requires a production boost to 630 thousand metric tons of pig iron, or the pre-World War II level six-fold. To reach this goal, the iron works of SISAK is to be enlarged, and a new combine near ZENICA (Bosnia) created [April 1953].

The Zenical combine, laid out to produce 800 thousand metric tons of pig iron sometime in the future, is at present under construction. A Saar construction firm has completed one blast furnace, is working on the second furnace, and hopes to start the construction of the third furnace still in 1953. A US rolling strip was installed during the late fall of 1952, designed for 450 thousand metric tons annually.

The Sisak Iron Works reported one of the three rolling strips in operation. Laid out for 62 thousand tons per unit, the three-strip unit will be able to process the entire Sisak production [April 1953].

Plans call for the construction of another iron plant in the Federal State of MACEDONIA, though no data have been made known as yet. With all planned iron plants finished in several years, it seems probable that Yugoslavia's iron

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production will eventually reach the one million metric tons level.

Austria has exported and installed a fine sheet roller strip in the former German-owned ASSLING (Jenice) steel mill. This made necessary the installment of a sixth open hearth furnace to reach the 45 thousand metric ton capacity for which the roller is laid out. ✓

A small hearth furnace was completed recently in the GUSTANJI (Slovenia) Steel Mill [April 1953]."

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