

Regd. No.

**UNRRA (EUROPEAN REGION).**

~~WR~~ 22/6

Date of Paper

FROM WHOM

**RECORD**

Date Registered

SUBJECT

PROPOSAL FOR THE REPATRIATION OF CZECH NATIONALS  
IN ENEMY TERRITORY.  
CZECH SCHEMEN

**NOTE.** This file must always be passed on VIA the REGISTRY.

(43102D) Wt. P768/276 5M 8/45 H.J.R & L. Op 51

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**NOTE.**— Do not retain this File unnecessarily.

Wt. P2204 200 2M 3/46 TCP/JR.



Registry: For filing in 122.

Copy in file 124.  
Reference

K.  
21.7.44.

From H.O. Fisher

To Mr. Carter ✓  
Mr. Mennell ✓

Report on visit to Dr. A. Kunoši, Head of the Repatriation Department  
of the Czechoslovak Government, 53, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3.  
(Kensington 0033)

Summarised information received from Dr. Kunoši.

Fifteen Czechs have completed their course for Social Workers with a special view to Information and Advice Bureaux, and have at present taken up different employments in this country.

Among Displaced Persons in Germany are some 800,000 Czech nationals. When I explained to Dr. Kunoši that UNRRA intends to establish in enemy territory I.A.B.s for allied D.P.s, he supported the opinion that these I.A.B.s should be set up and run by National Governments and not by UNRRA. In the course of the discussion I made Dr. Kunoši acquainted with UNRRA's proposed plan for the I.A.B.s and that the Allied D.P.s should be given information and advice by their own nationals, who will be UNRRA Social Workers and Travelling Commissioners. In his reply Dr. Kunoši mentioned that the best will be to wait for the Technical Commission's point of view <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ decision in this regard.

In case UNRRA's scheme of I.A.B.s is accepted, the Czechoslovak Government will give to UNRRA's disposal five of its trained Social Workers for this purpose. At the same time Dr. Kunoši suggested that these five Czech Social Workers should be taken over by UNRRA immediately, in order to give them opportunity of continuing with their studies and possibly gaining some practical experience.

I promised Dr. Kunoši that UNRRA will give him in writing (draft letter enclosed) more information about I.A.B.s in enemy territory, and will note his consent that five Czech Social Workers will be given to UNRRA's disposal in case the Technical Sub-Committee accepts the proposed plan.

K.  
11.7.44.



3 scheme  
Czechoslovakia

INDEXED

Mr. E. E. Carter  
File 122 306  
DP

Areas Intelligence Section 8.12.44.
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Translation of official French  
text. 21.11.44.

B I - L A T E R A L   A G R E E M E N T

between

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

and the

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

ON REPATRIATION

The following Agreement has been arrived at between the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Provisional Government of the French Republic:

1. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to facilitate and expedite the repatriation of prisoners, deportees and refugees and of all other nationals of the other Party, displaced by reason of the war (in respect of Czechoslovakia, displaced from 28th September 1938) who, at the time of liberation or thereafter, are found in its territory, on condition that their national Government grants them a repatriation visa.
2. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to welcome on its territory and to repatriate the nationals of the other Party coming out of an enemy or an enemy-occupied country or from a neutral country, and who, on their own initiative, have managed to cross the frontier.
3. While awaiting repatriation, these displaced persons shall be treated by each of the High Contracting Parties respectively on a basis of equality with its own nationals, particularly in regard to the provision of shelter, food, medical and social services and the application of restrictive health measures.

They can, if they are willing, be employed according to the local regulations in force, subject to the following reservations:

- (a) In no case must the nature of the work delay repatriation.
  - (b) Employees will receive such wages, benefits, and salaries as are in force locally; they will enjoy the protection of the local and international labour regulations in force in their locality. Their physical suitability will be examined and confirmed from time to time.
4. At the request of one of the two High Contracting Parties a temporary Commission, composed of three representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties, shall be set up in London. Its function will be to collect all available information regarding the number and location of persons to be repatriated and who are found in each of the two countries, and to suggest the lines on which this agreement is to be applied.

This Commission will cease to function when the national Missions provided for in Article 5 below have been formed.

/ 5. After...



5. After the partial or total liberation of its territory, and, during the military period subject to the authorisation of the competent Military Authorities, each of the High Contracting Parties shall admit to its liberated territory a national Mission of the other Party, the composition of which shall previously have been agreed upon.

The task of each Mission will be to assist the Government of the country visited in the repatriation of its nationals, within the general framework of international repatriation operations.

For this purpose, full travelling facilities as well as the necessary permits will be given to the members of the Mission to visit camps, centres and places at which its nationals are assembled.

The Mission shall, in addition, enjoy immunity from customs duties and shall be given facilities for the transport of all parcels, foodstuffs, medical supplies and, in general, all goods, clothes and other objects destined not only for its members but for the persons to be repatriated and for whom it is responsible.

The Mission will undertake:

- (a) To collaborate in the identification of any displaced persons claiming the nationality of the High Contracting Party represented by the Mission;
- (b) To provide repatriation documents;
- (c) To advise and assist the authorities of the territory concerned in the welfare, maintenance and repatriation of the displaced persons for whom it is responsible.

6. The Head of the national Mission, on the one hand, and the authorities responsible for repatriation in the country to which it is accredited on the other hand, may form on the spot a mixed Commission composed of representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties.

This mixed Commission will be responsible for examining any measures for repatriation and the methods by which they are to be applied, as well as the settlement of any legal disputes. The Commission shall endeavour to settle all difficulties which are submitted to it by mutual agreement of the Parties concerned.

7. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as far as may be possible, to make use of the personnel of the other Party in order to facilitate the repatriation operations of the nationals of the latter Party.

8. With regard to displaced persons who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and whose settled residence is situated in the territory of the other Party, each of the High Contracting Parties, while recognising the impossibility of giving a general or formal guarantee to readmit all such persons into its territory, undertakes, nevertheless, to examine in a spirit of humanity all such requests which may be approved by the other Contracting Party.

9. Each of the High Contracting Parties shall consider with the other Party the possibility of drawing up priority lists and will give full consideration to any requests or proposals which may be made to them by the other Party.



10. The undertakings provided for in this agreement should not prevent any general measures for internal order which the High Contracting Parties may consider essential to take, for reasons of public health or security or which may be taken by inter-allied bodies in accordance with the international agreements applicable in the country concerned.

11. Any financial questions arising out of the present Agreement will be considered and settled at a later date.

12. The present Agreement is concluded for a period of three months from the date of signature. It will be renewed by tacit consent for similar periods, unless terminated by either Party one month prior to the expiry of each of these periods.

13. The present Agreement will be communicated to UNRRA.

14. The present Agreement has been drawn up in duplicate.

London, 21st November 1944.

For the Government of the  
Czechoslovak Republic

Minister of  
Foreign Affairs

(signed) JAN MASARYK.

For the Provisional Government  
of the French Republic.

French Chargé d'Affaires

(signed) J. E. PARIS.



File in 122

Czechoslovak Repatriation ~~Cherika~~  
for UNRRA.

-----

- ✓ 1./ Dr. Jiří BENEŠ,  
83, Charlbert Court,  
Eamont Str.  
London N.W. 8.
- ✓ 2./ Salamon WEIS,  
17, Burnham Court  
Moscow Road,  
London W. 2.
- 3./ Henrik Dörner  
32, Meadway Court,  
Meadway,  
London N.W. 11.
- 4./ Josef SCHEITLER,  
24, South Parade  
Huddersfield
- 5./ Dr. Otto POPPER,  
27, Brondesbury Park  
London N.W. 6.
- 6./ Edgar KLEIN ,  
20, Addison Avenue  
London W. 11.
- 7./ Ing. Hanuš KLEIN,  
20 Addison Avenue,  
London W. 11.
- 8./ Dr. Pavel WINTER,  
R-953, P.R. N.T.  
Czechoslovak Army Depot  
Southend-on-Sea - Essex.
- 9./ Oswald JERUSALEM,  
42, Hillside Road  
Early Reading  
Berksh.

Nominees of  
Czech Ministry  
of Social  
Affairs  
October

1944

for Assembly  
Centres



4  
Social Workers:  
-----

- ✓ 1./ Julius KRAMER,  
17, Burnham Court,  
Moscow Road  
London W. 2.
- ✓ 2./ Mrs. Božena BARAUSCHOVÁ,  
1, Freeland Road,  
Ealing  
London W. 5.

Car Drivers:  
-----

- 1./ Hermann E S C H K A ,  
4, Lofton Place,  
Leeds.
- 2./ Rudolf GANGL,  
Ickmild Port Rd.,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham
- 3./ Max HAHN,  
70, Englefield Rd.,  
Islington  
London N. 1.
- 4./ Siegrfried WALTER,  
23, Clyde Road,  
West Didsbury  
Manchester 20.



122

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

170A, Great Portland  
Street.

✓ OUT FILE

3rd November, 1944.

Dear Dr. Rigelhaupt.

I refer to your letter of the 2nd  
October, and forward the missing papers  
that we had not been able to send in the  
previous lot.

Yours sincerely,

Eyre Carter

Dr. L. Rigelhaupt,  
53, Cadogan Gardens,  
S.W.1.

3 For file 122. Another copy in  
E. Klein's personal file 26th October, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thoman,

I attach a letter and warrant which were sent from your Government to Mr. Edgar Klein. As you remember, he was one of the people whom you nominated for service in UNRRA, and we have appointed him as an Administrative Assistant for an Assembly Centre. He started his training course at Reading last Monday.

In the circumstances I presume that you will be able to arrange with the Czechoslovak Ministry of War to cancel this notice.

I must apologise for the delay in forwarding this to you, but Mr. Klein did not receive it for two or three days because he was away at Reading. He handed it to the Principal of the training course who did not know what to do with it and kept it until I myself visited Reading on the 26th. I also have been so busy that I was unable to write to you immediately. I hope you will make it clear to your colleagues in the War Ministry that it is through no fault of Mr. Klein's that he did not obey the instructions in the letter immediately.

Yours sincerely,

EYRE CARTER

Dr. Thoman,  
Czechoslovakian Ministry of Social Welfare,  
53, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3.



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE,

Telephone:  
Museum 6898.

Portland Court,  
170A, Great Portland Street,  
London, W.1.

File 122

27th October, 1944.

OUT FILE

Dear Dr. Thoman,

You will be interested to hear that the following Czechoslovakian nationals, whose names were submitted by you for posts in Assembly Centres, have been offered the posts indicated below and have reported for training:

As Deputy Director, at a salary of £900 per annum, plus Field Allowance:

Mr. H. Klein, 20 Addison Avenue, W.11.

As Administrative Assistants, each at a salary of £800 per annum, plus Field Service Allowance:

Dr. Jiri Benes, 83 Charlbert Court, Emsont Street, N.W.8.

Mr. Solomon Weisz, 17 Burnham Court, Moscow Road, W.2.

Mr. Josef Scheitler, 24 South Parade, Huddersfield.

Mr. Edgar Klein, 20 Addison Avenue, W.11.

Mr. Julius Kramer, 17 Burnham Court, Moscow Road, W.2.

Of the balance:

Mr. Oswald Jerusalem (42 Hillside Road, Ebury, near Reading, Berkshire) has been offered a post as Deputy Director at a salary of £900, plus Field Allowance, but is not available for the present training course. He will report for the course starting early in November.

Mr. Henrik Dornier (32 Meadway Court, Meadway, N.W.11.) has been recommended for an appointment as Administrative Assistant. He is not available at present, but we shall be getting in touch with him at a later date.

Dr. Pavel Winter (R953, P.R.N.T. Czechoslovak Army Depot, Southend-on-Sea, Essex) did not attend for an interview. We could not, in any case, arrange anything with him until he is released by your military authorities.

Miss Rozena Baranchova (1 Freeland Road, Ealing, W.5.) was considered to be young and lacking in experience. The Selection Board, however, were impressed by her personally and it is possible that she will be called on later if the required standard is lowered.

Dr. Otto Pomer (27 Brondesbury Park, N.W.16) was interviewed some time ago and you promised to let me have your own views on him. I would like to hear from you about this candidate.

We are not at present appointing any Directors - and not very many Deputy Directors. We realise that it would be unfair to make definite distinctions in grade on the basis of an interview only. We intend, however, to keep a careful eye on the work of all candidates during their training - and particularly when they start work in the Field. There will be opportunities there for promotion for those who are found suitable on the practical results of their work.

Yours sincerely,

KYNE CARTER

Dr. Z. Thoman,  
Czechoslovakian Commissioner for Repatriation,  
53 Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3.



25th October, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thoman,

You will be interested to hear that the following Czechoslovakian nationals, whose names were submitted by you for posts in Assembly Centres, have been offered the posts indicated below and have reported for training:

As Deputy Director, at a salary of £900 per annum, plus Field Allowance:

Mr. H. Klein, 20 Addison Avenue, W.11.

As Administrative Assistants, each at a salary of £800 per annum, plus Field Service Allowance:

Dr. Jiri Benes, 83 Charlbert Court, Eamont Street, N.W.8.

Mr. Edgar Klein, 20 Addison Avenue, W.11.

Mr. Julius Kramer, 17 Burnham Court, Moscow Road, W.2.

Mr. Josef Scheitler, 24 South Parade, Huddersfield.

Mr. Solomon Weiss, 17 Burnham Court, Moscow Road, W.2.

Of the balance:

Miss Rozena Baranschova (1 Freeland Road, Ealing, W.5) was considered to be young and lacking in experience. The Selection Board, however, were impressed by her personality and it is possible that she will be called on later if the required standard is lowered.

Mr. Henrik Dörner (32 Meadway Court, Meadway, N.W.11) has been

Dr. Z. Thoman,  
Czechoslovakian Commissioner  
for Repatriation,  
53, Cadogan Gardens,  
S.W.3.

/recommended .....



recommended for an appointment as Administrative Assistant. He is not available at present, but we shall be getting in touch with him at a later date.

Mr. Oswald Jerusalem (42 Hillside Road, Early, near Reading, Berks.) has been offered a post as Deputy Director at a salary of £900, plus Field Allowance, but is not available for the present training course. He will report for the course starting early in November.

Dr. Otto Popper (27 Bronelesbury Park, N.W.16) was interviewed some time ago and you promised to let me have your own views on him. I would like to hear from you about this candidate.

Dr. Pavel Winter (R953, P.R.N.T., Czechoslovak Army Depot, Southend-on-Sea, Essex) did not attend for an interview. We could not, in any case, arrange anything with him until he is released by your military authorities.

We are not at present appointing any Directors - and not very many Deputy Directors. We realise that it would be unfair to make definite distinctions in grade on the basis of an interview only. We intend, however, to keep a careful eye on the work of all candidates during their training - and particularly when they start work in the Field. There will be opportunities there for promotion for those who are found suitable on the practical results of their work.

Yours sincerely,

EYRE CARTER

XXXXXXXXXX

OUT FILE

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

170A, Great Portland Street,  
W.1.

9th October, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thoman, (and to Mr. Nowicki - Poland)

I am enclosing a number of our application forms for employment with UMRRA, and it would be a great convenience if you would be good enough to arrange for their completion in respect of those of your nationals whom you are proposing for work in Assembly Centres and Flying Squads. A photograph with each form is not necessary.

Would you mind arranging for the completed forms to be returned to me personally? It is not necessary to wait until your whole quota of applications is complete. The forms can be sent in singly or in bunches as they ready.

Yours sincerely

Eyre Carter

Dr. Z. Thoman,  
Czechoslovakian Commission for Repatriation,  
53, Cadogan Gardens,  
S.W.3.



Copy of letters to Governments ref.  
recruitment of personnel for  
Field Operations (see file No. 607)

6.10.44.

Dear

With further reference to my letter of September 15th on the question of the recruitment of personnel for field operations on behalf of displaced allied nationals in Germany, I am now enclosing a copy of the qualifications required of those who will be serving in Flying Squads.

Yours sincerely,

Byre Carter

Sent to:

G.F. Fervarda (Netherlands)  
Dr. Z. Thormen (Czech)  
R. Nowicki Esq., (Poland)  
M. Grammont (France)  
A. Als Esq (Luxembourg)  
M. le Comte Obert de Thieusies  
(Belgian)

Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare 122

Republika Československá  
MINISTERSTVO SOCIÁLNEJ PEČLIVOSTI

53, Cadogan Gardens, London, S.W.3

TEL: KENSINGTON 0033-37.

Č.j.: 1172/44-IV.

Věc:

2nd October 1944

Major Eyre Carter,  
Displaced Persons Division,  
U.N.R.R.A., European Regional Office,  
170a, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Dear Major Carter,

Thank you for your letter of the  
22nd September, and for the papers, which  
will be most useful in connection with the  
training of our repatriation officials.

As some of our men will be called  
upon to go abroad fairly soon, we appreciate  
it very much that you kindly dealt with our  
request immediately.

We are looking forward to your  
further communications regarding the training  
course, and we also should like to have the  
missing papers if possible.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. L. Riegelhaupt.



Henry Taylor  
Bond 129

all 3  
12 copies of job spec.  
to Hogarth

Myon Scarborough



Copy on 154-607. 122.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

BRITISH CONSUL OFFICE

OUT FILE

1704, PORTLAND QUAY,  
GR. PORTLAND STREET,  
LONDON, W.1.

27th September, 1944.

Dear

With reference to my letter of September you will remember that we asked you whether you could provide one Flying Squad composed of your nationals within a very short time. I now write to tell you that the military authorities have informed us that owing to the nature of military operations it is not anticipated that it will be possible to use Flying Squads in the immediate future.

I shall be grateful therefore if you will continue to arrange for the recruiting for one such Squad on the understanding that we shall not require their services before the middle of November.

Yours sincerely,

KEITH GUNDEL



EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE,  
Portland Court,  
170A, St. Portland Street,  
London, W. 1.

14th September, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thoman,

1. Following Dr. Coigny's and Mr. Kennell's recent conversations with you, I am writing to confirm that this Administration is preparing - definitely and urgently - to recruit a considerable body of personnel for field operations in Germany for the care, maintenance and repatriation of allied nationals displaced in that country. In accordance with the principles on which UNRRA is founded and which have been strongly re-affirmed by the Standing Technical Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons, its personnel will be international in character, i.e. drawn from all of the European United Nations and the U.S.A.

2. Our present plan provides for recruiting - as rapidly as possible - some 600 or more men and women as the first contingent for operations in the British and American controlled zones of Germany. In this connection personnel is required as follows:-

(i) A few men of first-class administrative experience and ability on a high-level (if possible, with some experience of active administrative or organising work on relief or refugee problems or in "blitz" or similar circumstances dislocating the life of a local community). These men would be attached to headquarters in Berlin (or wherever it may be) or to regional sub-headquarters as they are set up. Could you provide one senior man towards these?

(ii) For the Assembly Centres themselves we shall need immediately men and women in the following categories. The numbers (of all nationalities together which we wish to reach within about 2 months are shown in the left-hand margin in brackets, but we should like to call on you immediately for the numbers shown on the right-hand side.

The posts are described in greater detail in the accompanying papers.

(250)	(a)	Directors, Deputy Directors and Administrative Assistants .....	5 men
(100)	(b)	Chief Medical Officers .....	10 men
(100)	(c)	Chief Nurses .....	10 women
(200)	(d)	Principal and Deputy Welfare Officer .....	4 men 1 woman
(650)	Total		30

3. With a view to assembling the first instalment of the above 650 at once, and the remainder as quickly as possible, I should be grateful if you would let me know (a) what number you could guarantee to supply from your nationals in this country, and (b) how soon. All the personnel should be able to understand and speak English.

4. Our plans provide for putting all UNRRA personnel soon after their recruitment through a short period of training (lasting about a fortnight), and preparations are being made to set up this course at an early date in London. This training will be of what I may call "multiple" character, i.e. it will not be devoted to providing specialists but rather to making all the trainees, for whatever job they are destined in the field, familiar with the organisation of an assembly centre and the various services to be operated in it - along the lines of the plans which have been approved by the Standing Technical Sub-Committee. Great importance is attached to this training and for that reason I must ask you whether, if you hope to obtain some personnel for us,

Dr. Z. Thoman,  
53, Cadogan Gardens,  
London, S. W. 3.

/you could



you could arrange to have them sent to London.

We shall not be able to train the whole 650 people simultaneously in one course, but propose to do the training in batches of 100 - 200. We should like to start the first course in about a fortnight. Particulars about the conditions for the training course will be sent to you shortly.

5. I want to emphasise that the personnel I am asking you for will be UNRRA personnel, working as part of an international team for this international administration. You will appreciate that, in order to secure uniformity as between nationals of different countries, it will be desirable for all applicants to meet an UNRRA selection board in the usual way. As soon as they have been definitely offered and have accepted an appointment they will be expected to conform with the directives and instructions given them by the UNRRA higher authorities. Though every effort will be made to utilise the services of Czech personnel for Czech displaced persons, this cannot be guaranteed and it would have to be a condition of their employment that they agreed to accept such posting as was assigned to them according to the circumstances.

I should add that they will be required to wear uniforms, but further information on this and other matters affecting conditions of service in the field will be communicated to you in due course.

6. Apart from recruiting and training the initial field force referred to above, we are endeavouring to secure the necessary equipment for the formation of 20 "flying squads", each composed along the lines set out in the enclosed memorandum. Should these efforts, as we hope, prove successful, a substantial personnel will be required to man these squads. We should be glad to see one of them manned entirely by Czech personnel. Would you therefore let me know soon whether you could arrange for this, when I notify you that the equipment has been secured? This personnel would have to be available in London, when required to take over the equipment. The members of these Flying Squads would be UNRRA personnel and would be expected to go where they were needed, although every effort would be made to use them where Czech displaced persons were expected to be found. In principle, the Flying Squads are intended for services for trekkers from Germany.

7. I want to add, with reference to the requests for personnel made above, that the measures at present contemplated for recruiting UNRRA personnel are a first instalment only, and that further requests for your assistance in this matter may be made.

8. In conclusion, I wish to refer to the question of national teams which it has always been contemplated by the Standing Sub-Committee would be required in Germany for supplementing the work of the UNRRA staff. The position at present is that Mr. Hoehler is in consultation with SHAEF on this matter, with a view to co-ordination of policy and action. As soon as the matter has been cleared, we will inform you of any arrangements which may be made.

Yours sincerely,

EYRE CARTER

for T.T. Scott, Director,  
Displaced Persons Division.



Registration 122

W/IN

20th August, 1944.

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter of the 5th, in regard to lectures for a Registration course.

I should be glad if you would kindly let me have some further information about this course. Is it intended to educate the public in the various aspects of this problem, or is the course to provide instruction for persons intending to do relief work in Czechoslovakia when that country is liberated? If the latter, are these volunteers of Czech or British nationality, or both?

If you will be good enough to send me this information, I shall be pleased to see what assistance we can give you.

Yours faithfully,

M. Noble,  
Training Division.

Mrs. S. Rath,  
Czechoslovak British Friendship Club,

Mr. Scott.

Edw. R. B.

To file in  
Gardner's  
return

For such action as he finds desirable.

The letter has a rather separatist  
point of view

L.O.

20/5/44



COPY

CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
RECONSTRUCTION

29 Fursecroft,  
George St., W.I.

May 17th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Feonov,

I hereby acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of May 8th and of an extract from the letter from Washington headquarters, and I also thank you for the oral explanation you were good enough to give me.

As regards the question of displaced persons, it is not a question of repatriation per se; on that point we assume that numbers of Czechoslovak citizens will endeavour to leave Polish and Hungarian territory for the liberated part of Czechoslovakia.

In such an event the thing needed will be material help, and there will be no need, therefore, to appeal to UNRRA for assistance in the shape of personnel in view of the fact that there will be plenty of people in the liberated regions to undertake the necessary work.

The relief most needed in our case will be the supplying of medicaments, equipping of hospitals and the feeding and housing of our people, and it seems to me that it is just this kind of help which UNRRA cannot give us in the given situation.

Again thanking you for the trouble you took,

I remain

Yours sincerely,

(signed) E. Loebel.

Deputy Director General,  
N.I. Feonov, Esq.,  
UNRRA,  
11 Portland Place, W.I.

*Mr. Lithgow Osborne*

*20.5.44 N.F.*

CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
RECONSTRUCTION

29, FURSECROFT,  
BROWN STREET. W.1  
TEL: AMBASSADOR 1612.

Čj: 1126/44

London, 4th April, 1944.

Your ref.P.W.1881.

United Nations Relief and  
Rehabilitation Administration,  
European Regional Headquarters,  
1/11 Hay Hill,  
London, W.1.

Dear Sir,

We are very much obliged for your communication of  
31st March 1944 and beg to inform you that the appropriate  
Officer in our government dealing with the repatriation of  
our nationals is -

Dr. A. K u n o š i, of the Czechoslovak Ministry of  
Social Welfare, 53, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3.

We requested the above mentioned at the same time to  
send you the proposals of our government in respect of the  
Repatriation of our nationals.

As this Ministry is the office of the Delegate of our  
government at the U.N.R.R.A., we would be much obliged if  
you would send to this Ministry a copy of your communications  
to Dr. K u n o š i.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

*Eugen Loeb*  
Eugen Loeb

Copy of letter of 20/4 (see File 41) sent.  
+ enclosures

NN

25/4



Czechoslovak Minister of Social Welfare  
Ján Bečko



53, CADOGAN GARDENS,  
LONDON, S.W.3.

4th April 1944

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration,  
European Regional Headquarters,  
11 Portland Place, W.1.

Dear Sirs,

I thank you for your letter of the 31st March 1944 informing me that the division for Displaced Persons has started to work and that the first meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee for Displaced Persons will be called in the very near future.

I gladly accept your proposition to establish the closest possible relations between my Department for Repatriation and the Displaced Persons Division of UNRRA. I believe myself that in view of the complicated nature of the matter we have to deal with, and the burning urgency of the problem, that direct liaison will be the most appropriate way of collaboration. I hope that a useful and agreeable collaboration between my Department of Repatriation and the Displaced Persons Division of UNRRA will develop.

We have presented our national plans for repatriation to the Post-War Requirements Bureau, since this plan has been amended and is being completed. I hope that through direct liaison my repatriation services will be able to give you satisfactory information in this respect.

Yours faithfully,



*Ján Bečko*  
Ján Bečko.

Republika Československá  
MINISTERSTVO SOCIÁLNEJ PEČLIVOSTI



53 Cadogan Gardens, London, S.W.3.

TEL : KENSINGTON 0033-37.

Čj.:

Věc:

WITH COMPLIMENTS

FROM

DR. ALEX. KUNOŠI.

Mr. Carter

Please acknowledge to Mr. Kunosi

Mr. Rodgers



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND  
REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION,  
European Regional Headquarters.

31st March, 1944

Dear Mr.

-----  
For your information I enclose a copy of a letter sent to the Delegate of your Government on the Committee of the Council for Europe.

I hope I am right in assuming that it will be your Department which will deal with these matters.

Yours sincerely,

EYRE CARTER

P.S. You may care to note that the office of the Displaced Persons Division is now at 11 Portland Place, W.1. (Telephone Langham: 3090).

P.W.1882.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND  
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P.W.1882.



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

European Regional Headquarters.

I am glad to inform you that we have now formed the nucleus of a division to deal with the problem of Displaced Persons, and it is expected that a meeting of the standing Technical Subcommittee, provided for by Resolution No.28 adopted at Atlantic City, will be called shortly.

The officers in the Displaced Persons Division are anxious to establish at the earliest possible moment relations with the appropriate officers in your Government who are dealing with this important subject. I should be glad to learn that your Government approves of a direct liaison of this kind, which seems to me most desirable, and to be informed whether your government would prefer to have it carried on through its representative on the Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons or through some other person.

At the same time, I shall be grateful if your Government will be good enough to send to this office one copy (or, if you can spare them, three copies) of their latest proposals for the repatriation of your nationals. Our intention is, after examination of the proposals of the various governments, to lay before the Technical Advisory Subcommittee on Displaced Persons a summary of these proposals as a prelude to the preparation of a coordinated UNRRA plan.

31st March, 1944

NAME  
INDEXED

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25th March, 1944.

Dear Dr. Kunosi,

I have just received from Mr. Hoehler's Secretary a copy of your Government's publication on Czechoslovak Workers in Germany Parts I and II. ~~o~~ I am very glad to have these and look forward to receiving any more material of the same nature which your Government may issue in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Byre Carter.

~~e~~  
Dr. Alex. Kunosi,  
53, Cadogan Gardens,  
London, S.W.3.



THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

---

First Department.

CZECHOSLOVAK WORKERS IN GERMANY.

---

II. From Slovakia.

London. February 1944.

## INTRODUCTION

The same remarks made about the incompleteness of the information for the first part of this work also apply to the second part. Obtaining information about the position of Slovak workers in Germany is, if possible, still more difficult than about the conditions of workers from Bohemia and Moravia.

This work contains in some detail some information which applies to all foreign workers, and some only to workers from the so-called Protectorate, but in the main it is restricted to news about the position of workers particularly from the "Slovak State".

The conditions of Slovak workers described in the following pages may seem perhaps to the reader to be scarcely enviable, but at least not too bad. It must however always be borne in mind that even if the legal regulations, orders and decrees are quite favourable on paper, the actual position in practice is quite different, as the decisions are left to the will of the Nazi "leaders" of the undertakings and other functionaries.

London: 8th February 1944.

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## I. LEGAL CONDITIONS.

## 1. The Legal Relationship of the "Slovak State" to the Reich.

"Independence" of Slovakia. The "Slovak State", an institution created by the Germans and for the Germans, has the external signs which are assumed by international law as constituting the sovereignty of a state. The Nazis and also the Slovaks themselves emphasize on all occasions that on the 14th March 1939, independent Slovakia was established, which has all the preconditions, political, social and economic, for its existence to be assured. Whether there really are such preconditions or not, is clearly shown in the various speeches of the Slovak "leaders" in the press and wireless. As far then, as concerns the sovereignty of the state, it does not seem to be quite compatible with the existence of the office of the Reichs Ministry of Labour for Labour Recruitment /Arbeitseinsatzstelle des Reichsarbeitsministeriums fuer die Slowakei/ -1- with the existence of German officials, who are assigned to the Slovak labour offices for the period of recruitment, and who work in collaboration with the Slovak recruitment officials, or with the existence of the German National Socialist party and all its organisations on Slovak territory, with the special position of Germans or the exemption and placing of large Slovak territories under the authority of Germany, especially of its army, to quote only the most obvious examples. The case of the German-Hungarian agreement about social insurance as concerns the territories of the Czechoslovak Republic annexed to Hungary is interesting. -2- Although it was concerned only with those territories which formerly belonged to Slovakia, the Germans and Hungarians came to an agreement between themselves, without the Slovaks being able to be a party to it.

## 2. The Legal position of Slovak workers in the Reich.

Category of Workers. If the legal position of the Slovak workers in the Reich is not the same as that of German workers, - as various interstate agreements concluded between the German government and the Slovak government guarantee to them, as for instance the agreement about health insurance of the 20th September 1939 -3- about taxation -4- about employment of agricultural workers -5- and so on, one can say in general that their position is equal with the position of privileged groups of foreign workers, i.e. members of the Axis states and friendly countries -6-; that is in some places specified as members of nations of the first group /five groups exist/, to which Italians, Slovaks, Hungarians and Croats belong. -5- The second group consists of other foreign workers, excepting those who belong to the first group, and further, the third group consists of Poles, the fourth of Soviet and other prisoners, and the fifth of eastern workers. Obviously the Nazis have found the ways in which to deprive these privileged categories of their advantages, which otherwise belong to German workers, which is particularly evident in the feeding of agricultural workers, about which a special interstate agreement exists, -7- also in taxation -4- where a completely different conception about permanent address was created from that valid, for instance, for the issue of clothing coupons -9- and other cases, with which we will deal in greater detail. /Refer here to page 1, Part I of this study -6- particularly as concerns the deliberate obscuring of the legal conception./

## 3. The Legal Bases of Labour Mobilisation of Slovak Workers.

Labour camps of the Ministry of National Defence. In Slovakia, as distinct from the "Protectorate" we must distinguish between labour service inside the country and the recruitment of manpower for Germany. These two actions are not parallel, but rather one conflicts with the other. Labour service inside the state was introduced by Government Decree No. 38 of the 12th March 1942 about Slovak labour service. Already before that the Slovak army had organised labour camps of men who were actually liable for military service, but who had not passed the medical test. These labour corps were organised on military principles and were under the Ministry of National Defence. Service in them lasts for the same period as service in the army, i.e. two years.



**Unemployment.** Slovak labour service was organised according to the German pattern. For the Slovaks however, it does not concern only immediate provisions against unemployment, but rather provisions of long term policy. We see that unemployment is always an urgent question in Slovakia from the gleichgeschaltet press, and also from the wireless, as too from the annual widely-propagated Winter Relief Action, to which the former system of assistance to the unemployed is compared unfavourably by the Slovak press. Thus the Krakauer Zeitung of the 3rd December 1942 states with pleasure that the number of unemployed in Slovakia has considerably decreased; in spite of that however "the State spends 10,741,000 Ks. annually in unemployment assistance, on which 32,575 people are dependent, of whom 13,000 are Jews and gypsies." According to the estimate of this paper there are 10,763 beggars on Slovak territory, of whom again over 7,000 are gypsies. The number of inhabitants of Slovakia according to the 1930 census was 3,300,000, of whom according to the official statistics of the Ministry of Social Welfare in Prague, the number of unplaced applicants for work in 1938 was 95,306 people. The latest statistics at our disposal give the number of inhabitants as 2,704,000 persons. From a German source -1- we learn that in March 1941 the number of unplaced applicants for work in Slovakia amounted to 63,054. By comparing these two figures we find that the number of unemployed persons remains nearly the same.

**Long term measures.** In long term policy the tendency towards labour provisions was particularly towards the support of the building activity, building of railway tracks, roads, canalisation of rivers and so on. 58,354,000 Ks. were spent on the building of railway tracks, and 150 million Ks. on the canalisation of the river Váh alone. -11-

This construction programme is not viewed favourably by the Germans, as the measures giving workers work at home decreased the number of people forced to look for maintenance abroad. The Germans however, were comforted by the fact that the carrying out of the plan would be hampered by the lack of skilled workers, and that the various measures of the Slovak government in this sphere, as in the matter of the employment of youth /Berufsnachwuchs/, in technical and continuation education, the planned training of apprentices, the training of youth in German undertakings, and so on, only showed their results after some years -1-.

**Winter Relief HSLs.** The Winter Relief Action of the Hlinka's Slovak Peoples Party /HSLs/ began, according to the news in the Slovak press -12- already in 1939, and since then it has taken place every year. The programme and direction of the action was decided by Tiso, who announced that it was the present mission of Slovaks in all circumstances patiently to solve social problems. As distinct from the payment of assistance in unemployment, it does not appear that in the Winter Relief Action the motive of assistance is humiliating, not only are material goods accepted and distributed, which would mean organised begging, but it also means in essence a real loving-kindness to one's neighbours. From 1940 to 1941 the Winter Relief Action reached over 25 millions, from 1941 to 1942 it rose by 16% and from 1942 to 1943 it rose by 24%, reaching 36 and a half million Ks. The amount of Winter Relief for the last period is 157% higher than the results for the first period of 1939 to 1940. The activities of the Winter Relief of HSLs consist of four main actions: clothing, feeding, financial help and care of Slovak villages and towns. The Winter Relief of HSLs is organised by the social institution of HSLs and the above facts are included in the detailed news of its activities. -13-

**Slovak Labour Service.** The arrangements for Slovak labour service are not similar to those for the introduction of labour service in the "Protectorate" /-6- page 3./ but, as the Nazi press itself admits, it is a "rather complicated" business. The Government Decree about Slovak labour service lays down that the Slovak youth from 18 to 25 years of age have to perform 6 months of labour service before taking up their military duties. In May 1941 the leader of the Reichs labour service sent, at the request of the Slovak government, a delegate to Slovakia, whose task it was to help the Slovak "leaders" by advice in the organisation of labour service. Slovak labour service applies only to men, and it would take about five years before it would be completely built up. In the meantime it is particularly important for leaders to



be trained, for in July 1942 "the first 250 volunteers" were called up for "Compulsory service" and their task was, first of all, to establish labour camps -10-. On the 8th January 1944, according to the Slovak wireless, almost 7,000 people passed through Slovak labour service in six stages, which in comparison with the number of inhabitants of Slovakia according to the last census taken in the year 1940 /over 2 and a half million inhabitants/ is a very small proportion. /Compare also the number of workers in Germany./

"Recruitment" The placing of Slovak workers in Germany was carried out into the Reich. already before March 1939, and according to German news it had reached to great dimensions already by the end of 1938.

According to German writers it was carried out on the basis of the German - Czechoslovak agreement of that time, and chiefly applied to industrial workers. After the creation of the Slovak State the placing of manpower in Germany increased, and in 1941 there was established in Bratislava an office of the Reichs Ministry of Labour for Labour Recruitment /Arbeitseinsatzstelle des Reichsarbeitsministeriums fuer die Slowakei/. By Government decree No. 147 of 1940 about the organisation of labour, there was created a net of labour offices subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior, of which there were 60 in January 1942. According to news from people who were still in Slovakia in 1942, these labour offices are established in each town with from 2 to 3 thousand inhabitants. The officials in them are members of the Hlinka Guard. Their chief occupation is the distribution of manpower. The Arbeitseinsatzstelle in Bratislava has branches in some of the larger towns. Their staff is exclusively German. German officials, assigned to the labour offices for the period of recruitment, carry out the mobilisation of Slovak manpower for Germany together with the Slovak officials. -1- The legal basis for the Reichs "recruitment" of workers for the Reich is the German-Slovak agreement about the recruitment of Slovak workers for Germany, concluded in March 1941. This agreement was made in place of the existing agreement of the 8th December 1939. The new agreement came into force from the 31st December 1941 and is automatically prolonged for a further year if it is not denounced at the latest by the 1st October. -14-

#### 4. Unilateral Extension of Labour Contracts on the part of the German Offices.

Extension of Labour Contracts. The Decree of the General Commissioner about the ordering of manpower from the "Protectorate" and occupied territory of the 30th September 1942, does not apply to the Slovak worker, if he does not agree voluntarily to the extension of his labour contract. The provision applies to all foreign workers however, and therefore to Slovak workers as well, according to which it is stipulated that if the worker does not present himself for work on his own account, his labour contract is extended for that period by which the worker deliberately absented himself from his work /-6- page 4./ There also belongs here the regulation specially made for Slovakia. Workers who leave their employment after the termination of their agreement and return to their own country, but later return for work in Germany, receive in this case rights of remittance /Lohnueberweisungsberechtigung/ only if they were placed in Germany by the German Employment Bureau /Arbeitsdienststelle/ in Bratislava -13-.

#### 5. Provisions against Slovak Workers Breaking their Labour Contracts.

Workers in General. In addition to the provisions which apply to all workers, including German workers, the Nazis have laid down a further very definite means by which to prevent the Slovak workers from breaking their labour contracts. This is an economic provision, but very effective, namely the refusal of authorization to send home savings. /Lohnueberweisung/ -15-. The Germans know very well how important a question it is for a Slovak worker, that he should be able to fulfil his obligations towards his family at home. For this reason the refusal of the rights of remittance is a strong psychological means preventing the worker from breaking his labour contract. Rights of remittance are therefore taken away from the worker if he returns to his country and thus breaks his contract, if he changes his employment without the consent of the labour office, or if he interrupts his work for so long that it cannot be said to be leave of absence /a period exceeding 5 weeks/. The period of 5 weeks is calculated from the beginning of the leave. If the worker,



cannot return from his leave, through no fault of his own, rights of remittance must again be granted to him. The reasons for which the Nazis admit that this could happen to the worker "through no fault of his own" are enumerated as follows: illness of the worker, the worker's getting married, death in his family, temporary calling up of the worker for military service, passport difficulties.

#### Agricultural Workers.

The Nazis have still other means in their hands against agricultural workers, by which they prevent the worker from breaking off his labour contract prematurely. In the case of permanent workers -25- the "leader" of the enterprise can hold back 4 RM. per month from the worker's wages after the first four months. The amounts held back are payable and have to be paid according to the regulations before the orderly departure /Ordnungsmaessig/ of the worker, and at the latest one year after his starting work. For seasonal workers -26- the Nazis make sure that the "leader" of the enterprise holds back 3 RM from the wages after the first six weeks, and 2 RM for a further 9 weeks. These amounts are payable only on the orderly departure of the worker, which means that the labour contract was dissolved through no fault of the worker.

## II. ADMINISTRATION.

### 1. The Number and Location of Slovak Workers in Germany.

Number of Foreign Workers in the Reich. Vichy wireless of the 6th January 1943 /E.M. Kulischer, The Displacement of Population in Europe, pages 134, 135, I.L.O. Montreal, 1943/ announced that authorised circles in Berlin estimated the number of foreign workers employed in industry and agriculture in the Reich at 6 - 8 millions. According to the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 30th June 1943 /ibidem/ it seems that the total number of all foreign manpower employed in Germany on the 31st May 1943 amounted to 12 million.

Number of Slovak workers. How many of this total number are Slovak workers it is only possible to estimate, as the news which appear in the Nazi and Slovak press is intentionally inexact. Thus for instance Gardista in October 1941 -16- published that there were 50 -100 thousand Slovak workers in the Reich. According to the news from Gardista in June 1943 there were, they said, working at that time in Germany about 100 thousand Slovak workers. -18- The statistics published in Slovakia and quoted in the Suedost Echo of the 15th January 1942 /Kulischer: Displacement/ give the number of Slovak workers in Germany as 120 thousand.

Branches of activity of Czechoslovak Workers. If it is not in fact possible to ascertain the number of Slovak workers in Germany, we have on the other hand succeeded in making a conception of which branches of industry they are employed in, from the lists of factory legislations which is printed in one number of RAB -17- . This list also gives the publishers of these various provisions, which have to be published for large undertakings, so that we can see from the list in which undertakings Slovaks are employed in sufficient numbers for the Germans to consider it necessary to inform them of the dangers connected with their work in their native language.

Names of the Branches of Activity of the Czechoslovak Workers. Czech factory regulations are published for agricultural associations in Kassel, for Nordwestliche Eisen - and Stahlgenossenschaft, Hannover, Reichsbahn-zentralamt, Berlin, Gebrueder Zschake, Leipzig /re-employment of people injured in the steel building industry/, Verband Deutscher Elektrotechnik, Berlin, Bauberufsgenossenschaft, Berlin, Berufsgenossenschaft der Chemischen Industrie, Berlin, Westdeutsche Binnenschiffahrtsgenossenschaft, Duisburg, Berufsgenossenschaft fuer gewerkschaftliche Fahrzeughaltungen, Berlin, Tiefbauberufsgenossenschaft, Berlin, Steinbruchberufsgenossenschaft, Berlin, Lederindustrie-Berufsgenossenschaft, Mainz, and Saechsische Textilberufsgenossenschaften. /This completes the first part./

Factory regulations are published in the Slovak language by the following organisations: Landwirtschaftliche Berufsgenossenschaft, Kassel,



Tiefbauberufsgenossenschaft, Berlin, Bauberufsgenossenschaft, Berlin, and Berufsgenossenschaft der Chemischen Industrie, Berlin.

Proportion of Industrial workers to Agricultural. The Germans themselves assert that about 20 or more nationalities are working in Germany. -17- According to an article by Dr. Timm -1- 55,000 to 60,000 labourers are placed annually in Germany on the basis of the German-Slovak agreement, of whom about 70% are agricultural workers.

If this proportion of industrial to agricultural workers is correct, which appears indirectly from other sources as well, as will be further referred to, there arises now a very important question, namely the proportion of permanent agricultural workers to seasonal workers. The Germans themselves maintain -1- that industrial workers remain in the Reich, as distinct from agricultural and forestry workers, who return home. However, the matter is not so simple. In the collection of decrees and regulations about foreign workers in Germany, *Der auslaendische Arbeiter in Deutschland*, in Volume II on pages 636 and following, and page 640 and following, there are published two model agreements, the first for permanent agricultural workers from Slovakia /Dauerarbeitskraefte/ and the second for seasonal workers from Slovakia /Wanderarbeiter/. In the case of permanent workers the text of the agreement is literally: "The leader of the undertaking /Betriebsfuehrer/ undertakes to employ in his agricultural undertaking in ..... for the period from ..... to..... /at most one year from his starting work/ ....."

After some lines there follows then the well-known Nazi method, by which they always get round their definitely stipulated regulations. They say further: "The labour contract can at any time be extended in writing by one party. If it happens that the agreement is extended without this written declaration, the agreement is valid for a further 6 months." From this it can be seen that permanent agricultural workers, accepted in principle for work for one year, can - and evidently in fact do - remain in Germany for an unlimited time.

With seasonal workers it is another matter. The model agreement about these workers has this regulation: "The undersigned seasonal workers ..... take up work starting from the binding date /Verpflichtung/ for so long until all the agricultural work is finished, but at the latest until the 15th December of the current year." It seems from this that seasonal agricultural workers do actually return to their own country after the end of the agricultural work. We do not know what is the numerical proportion of permanent to seasonal workers. If we assume however, that the proportion is about 50% we come to the conclusion that in the period of harvest work until the middle of December of the current year there are in Germany about 35% more workers from Slovakia than in the winter.

For details of the administrative aspect of recruitment of Slovak workers for Germany, refer to page 7 of Part I. -6-

## 2. Direction of Labour Mobilisation for the Reich.

Organs for recruitment. Labour mobilisation for the Reich has been carried out since 1941 by the offices of the Reichs Ministry of Labour for Labour Mobilisation /Arbeitseinsatzstelle des Reichsarbeitsministeriums fuer die Slowakei/ with its seat in Bratislava -1-. This office has its branches in various towns, its employees are exclusively German. The Slovak labour offices, the number of which was, according to different pieces of information, sixty at the beginning of 1942, are occupied in placing men in work inside Slovakia; besides this work there also comes within their competence wages policy, labour rights and the protection of labour. The highest authority over these labour offices is the Central Labour Office, which is a special department of the Ministry of the Interior /Home Office/ set up by Government Decree No. 147 of the 12th June 1940. The head of the Central Labour Office, according to the Slovak wireless /January 1944/ is Anton Bezák. The sphere of action of the Slovak labour offices for agricultural workers in Bratislava and the regional labour office, which were abolished, were transferred to this office. Agricultural district inspectorates became



labour offices. /More detailed information will be issued by the Ministry of the Interior. In the period of carrying out recruitment for the Reich the Slovak labour offices have to be assigned German officers, who carry out the recruitment in collaboration with the Slovak labour offices.

Care of the Slovak workers become members of the DAF /Deutsche Arbeitsfront/ Workers. in Berlin, which is the centre for the care of Slovak workers and in the majority of counties /Gaue/ has social trustees, as we learn from Gardista -16-. That the DAF and its district authorities do not take very much trouble about the care of the problems of Slovak workers appears to be corroborated by the news in Grenzboten -19-, where an official notice appeals to Slovak workers in Germany to take all their questions of employment to the Central Labour Office at the Ministry of the Interior by arrangement of the district labour office. This applies to all questions, both for the period of employment and also after its termination, if they cannot settle the matter at the local office. Workers in Germany have to apply to the committee for the protection of Slovak workers in Germany, which also refers to their families in Slovakia. The notice appeals to the workers not to travel unnecessarily to Bratislava, but to send their questions to the Central Labour Office, which will reply in writing.

Functionaries for the care of Slovak workers. The Nazi and the Slovak wireless and press give a whole series of various names and functions for the officials and functionaries having dealings with the Slovak workers. There are besides District Managers, sometimes called social workers /for settling workers' requests, removing their difficulties and making their stay in Germany more pleasant/, some of whom are known by name. For the regions of Berlin, Pomerania, Mecklenburg, Eastern and Western Prussia there is Manager Mojš, for the Brandenburg region Manager Legner, for the Halle region Klochan, for the regions of Linz, Salzburg and Graz Manager Jesenský, for Upper Silesia Manager Kalček, for the Munich region Manager Krejčík, and for the Frankfurt region Manager Hanák. -8-

Further the function of regional representatives also apparently consists in their task of visiting labour camps and listening to the worries and wishes of the workers. The name of Antonín Holubanský is known for the region of Hamburg. -18-

Other functionaries are the social trustees of the DAF, who are in the majority of regions. These are however, apparently Germans. There also exists a committee for the protection of Slovak workers in Germany -19- of which Petr Helm is at the head -8-.

### 3. District Liaison Offices.

District Liaison Offices /Gauverbindungsämter/, like those which exist for workers from the "Protectorate" /page 8 -6-/ are set up also for Slovak workers, and that in the territories where a large number of Slovak workers are working. It is known that there are District Liaison Offices in the following towns:

Berlin  
Halle  
Frankfurt  
Plzen  
Břeclav /Lundenburg/

### 4. Billeting of Workers.

The same conditions apply to the billeting of Slovak industrial workers as were stated in Part I on page 8 and later. As concerns the billeting of agricultural workers, one must distinguish between two categories. If the agricultural workers are employed in groups, they are billeted together in camps and so on. If they are employed individually /which however the Nazis do not like and try to restrict/ they are fed and also evidently are billeted together with the family of the employer. -5-

Location of Camps. The number of labour camps is not known, but it is certain that not only the number of camps where Slovak workers are billeted, but also the number of their occupants varies. From the daily



Press and wireless, and also from the reports of people who were still in Slovakia a relatively short time ago, it appears that the camps where there are Slovak workers are very numerous, of course the number of Slovaks billeted in them varies very much. For instance in the Munich district there is a camp in which there are only four people of Slovak origin -8- in Schwetzingen 26 people -20- and, according to the news of Gardista of June 1943 -18- some hundreds of them are working in Hamburg. The greatest number of Slovak workers, according to this source, is however employed in the southern and south-eastern Reich. The names of the camps given below are only those which were obtained through accessible sources. It is however known that a large number of Slovak workers are working in the so-called Protectorate, in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Alsace, Lorraine, Luxemburg and perhaps also in other parts of German-occupied Europe -17- and in the territories of their allies.

Germany: Ludwigshavn /3 large camps/ -21-  
Neustadt an der Weinstrasse /?/ -21-  
Pielitz /camps of Slovak, Italian, Croat, Ukrainian and Dutch  
workers/ -22-

The town and district of Frankfurt /camp for men & women/ -20-  
Schwetzigen -20-

Hamburg /majority of workers since 1939/ -18-

The town and district of Berlin -8-

Pomeranian district -8-

Mecklenburg district -8-

Eastern Prussian district -8-

Western Prussian district -8-

Brandenburg district -8-

In the Halle district these towns: Bitterfeld -8-

Ops

Esternein

Allendorf

Annendorf

Kamens

Chemnitz

Böhmische

Flobershein /also women/ -20-

Upper Silesian district: Katowice -8-

Munich -8-

Schwetzingen /also women/ -8-

Austria: Town and district of Linz -8-

Salzburg -8-

Graz -8-

France: Metz

Conditions in the Camps. The life of Slovak workers in the camps is very far from ideal, although the Slovak press sometimes tries to describe it as if it were. Thus for instance "Slovenský Týžden" boasts -21- that the barracks of the firm I.G. Farben in Ludwigshavn are the best in Germany. "They have big diningrooms, dormitories, bathrooms, storehouses, camp hospitals and convalescent homes, a series of kitchens with many employees, and everything gives the impression of an allied military camp." About some of them however, the paper further mentions that all is not so rosy as it seems. It was necessary to send District Managers for the protection of workers from Slovakia, to remove discontent politics, cards, drinking and chiefly "profiteering in speculation".  
/Probably on the black market./

"Slovák" -23- praises the national consciousness of the Slovak workers, which is, they say, still stronger in Germanysurroundings than at home. It seems that it is necessary for the government to be reminded -"what a great sacrifice the Slovak worker makes when he leaves his dear ones and his beautiful country and goes abroad, in order there, in foreign surroundings, in spite of foreign customs and manners, foreign speech and cooking, and in spite of danger, to earn his bread."

In the flood of official speeches at the Congress of Social Workers of all the foreign workers in Germany, in October 1943 -8- it frequently happened that some of the speakers mentioned the many wants of



which the Slovak workers in Germany complain. Manager Klochaň says: "You know how it is for us to work abroad, and how it could be to work at home. You know very well that today it is very difficult to gain privileges abroad in the present difficult times". Manager Jesenský: "If you came to our camps in the evening, you would certainly hear many complaints."

District Manager Holubanský visited workers in Hamburg -18- who explained their troubles to him. "There are among them Slovaks who have been working in Hamburg for 9 years, and still have not got contracts which would guarantee them the right to holidays, to visit their country and the right to send their savings home to their families."

No comment is necessary on the above.

## 5. Transit Camps.

The notes in Part I page 12 apply to transit and assembly camps.

Frontier Crossings. Two frontier crossings have been allotted for Slovak workers, through which they are obliged to pass on their way into the Reich. These are Čadca /Slovakia/ and Marchegg /in Austria, on the railway line from Bratislava to Vienna./ For both these crossings the Frontier Labour Offices are in Vienna. -24-

## III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

### 1. Wages. Working Conditions.

The question of wages and working conditions of industrial workers was dealt with in Part I, page 14.

Agricultural Workers. As concerns agricultural workers, these are, as has been said, employed partly on the basis of inter-state agreements and partly on the basis of individual agreements -7-. The inter-state agreements usually have a model agreement added which contains the working conditions, and it is to be taken as a basis for all relations of foreign workers to their German employers. The interstate agreements were concluded by Germany with the following countries: Bulgaria, Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Hungary.

The model agreement contains: a description of the parties, information on how, in which place of work and for how long the workers will be employed in agriculture, wage regulations, working times, wage increases, pay for loyal service /Treuegeld/, expenses for sleeping accommodation, for billeting, feeding and fares. The agreements are in two languages, German and the language of the state with which the agreement was concluded. The pay of agricultural workers may never be better than the pay of German workers /Erlass des Reichsarbeitsministerium of the 24th September 1941./

Der auslaendischer Arbeiter in Deutschland publishes two model agreements for Slovak agricultural workers in Germany, one for permanent workers /Dauerarbeitskraefte/ and the second for seasonal workers /Wanderarbeiter/, the texts of which are given below.

#### Model Agreement for Permanent Agricultural Workers from Slovakia

Regional Labour office .....  
Labour Office .....  
Proposal No. ....  
Commencement of Work .....  
Assembly Station .....  
Date of leaving Assembly Station .....  
Health Insurance Institute .....

	Men	Boys	Women & Girls	Total
Number required				
Number reported				



Leader of the Enterprise /Betriebsfuehrer/ .....  
 Address ..... Post town .....  
 Telephone No. .... Railway Station .....  
 Country ..... Province /Provinz/ region .....  
 Place of employment .....

binds himself to employ in his agricultural undertaking in .....  
 for the period from ..... to ..... /at most a year from starting  
 work/ worker /name and surname/ ..... date of birth .....  
 address ..... district ..... as an agricultural worker.

The labour contract can be extended in writing at any time by the parties. If the agreement is extended without this written declaration the agreement is valid for a further 6 months.

Remuneration, leave, notice, etc. is settled according to the Wage Regulations /Tarifordnung/ valid for the place of employment. If there is no Wage Regulation, the usual local wages and working conditions apply.

In an extension of the agreement the worker has to be given the leave which is due to him not later than during the six weeks after the termination of the current year of employment.

Otherwise these working conditions apply:  
 Wages in cash ..... RM weekly - monthly.

Besides Sundays and Protestant festivals and the Slovak State holiday /14th March/ Roman- and Greek-Catholic workers have the right to observe these Roman- and Greek-Catholic holidays: The Epiphany, Corpus Christi, Saints Peter and Paul, the Assumption of Our Lady, All Saints Day the Immaculate Conception, as long as the appropriate Roman- or Greek-Catholic church body does not transfer the celebration of the festival to the next Sunday. If it is not possible to transfer the holiday and the workers work on that day, they receive Sunday wages. This also applies if the Slovak workers work on the Slovak State holiday.

- Appropriate holidays are granted to the worker
- a/ in the case of his parents, wife /husband/ or children being seriously ill, or dying:
  - b/ if the worker has urgently to appear personally at a court or office in Slovakia:
  - c/ for the urgent settlement of necessary financial or family business.

A worker has a right to the payment of wages only in case a/ on the same level as a German worker having the same working status.

The reasons for which a worker asks for the granting of leave must have official /borough/ sanction.

- The agreement can be prematurely dissolved if
- a/ the worker is incapable of the work for which he was engaged:
  - b/ the worker has to enter military service:
  - c/ the Central Office in Bratislava demands his release for serious reasons.

The leader of the enterprise can hold back 4 RM. out of the worker's wages for the first four months. These amounts held back are payable and have to be paid not before the orderly departure /ordnungsmaessig/ of the worker, but not later than one year after he started work.

The leader of the enterprise carries out the sending home of wages savings. He is obliged to send the money which he receives from the worker without delay. Repeated breaking of this regulation entitles the worker to give immediate notice.



By the agreement between the German and Slovak Governments it is assured that the Slovak worker is on the same level as a German worker of the same working status as regards working conditions, that entails labour law, protection of labour, social insurance and public assistance.

The passport and other labour papers cannot be taken away from the worker against his will.

Travelling expenses to the frontier are borne by the worker, travelling expenses from the frontier to the place of work, and expenses of general and special labour permits and permission to stay /Beschaeftigungsgenehmigung, Arbeitserlaubnis, Aufenthaltserlaubnis/ are borne by the leader of the enterprise.

If the worker returns to his country after the termination of his labour contract, the leader of the undertaking provides him with the fare as far as the last German frontier crossing station, through which he came to Germany to take up work.

All disputes arising out of this agreement are settled by the appropriate labour court laid down by German law.

Place and date ..... day ..... 194  
 Signature of the leader of the enterprise or his representative.....  
 Labour Office .....  
 deputising for .....

Visa of the Slovak Labour Office.  
 .....

Note: This agreement is to be prepared in 5 copies.

The employees undertaking an obligation by this Agreement.				Family State.	Knowledge of German	Engaged as:
Christian name and surname, women should give maiden name.	address	district	date of birth	single married widowed separated	Yes No	Man or strong boy. Boy. Woman or girl.

Signature or mark.

This agreement has been read through to the above-named workers in their own language, it was fully understood by them, and the full contents are ratified by their signatures /marks/.

The workers were issued with bank certificates No. ....  
 to No. .... date ..... 194

Signature of the party bound /Verpflichtungsbeauftragter/  
 .....

The above-named worker was today medically examined. He is healthy, without any infectious disease and he has no physical defect which could be detrimental to his work.

Date ..... 194

Signature and stamp of the official  
 doctor.



Model Agreement for Seasonal Agricultural Workers  
from Slovakia.

There will probably be cultivated:

Sugarbeet	acres	Assembly Station .....
Manglewurzels	"	Regional Labour Office .....
Seed crops	"	Labour Office .....
Vegetables	"	Date of leaving Assembly Station..
Flax	"	Proposal Number .....
Grain	"	
Potatoes	"	1.-10.
Other crops	"	Day of starting work. 11.-20.
		21.-31.

	Overseer	Leading worker of the group	Leading woman worker of the group	Men	Boys	Women and Girls	Cook	TOTAL
Number required								
Number reported								

Name, surname and address of the leader of the group, or the leading worker, whom the leader of the undertaking asked for .....

Length of the labour contract. This agreement is concluded between the undersigned ..... address..... post town ..... telephone No. .... railway station ..... county ..... province /country/ ..... place of work ..... that is the leader of the undertaking on the one hand, and the undersigned seasonal workers on the other hand. The regulations of the regional labour order: /Arbeitsordnung/ and the Wage Regulations valid for the district of work remain unaffected by the agreement.

The undersigned seasonal workers, wives with the consent of the husband, children under age with the consent of the parents or guardian, start work from the day of undertaking the engagement /Verpflichtung/ for so long until all the agricultural work is finished, but not later than the 15th December of the current year, with the above-named leader of the enterprise or his legal representative. They undertake to carry out all work for time rates or piece work rates /Tagelohn oder Stuecklohnarbeiten/ imposed on them by the leader of the undertaking or his representative.

The workers guarantee that they are quite healthy, without any kind of defect which could be to the detriment of their work /women that they are not pregnant/ and that they know how to do all the usual agricultural work.

Workers liable for military service declare that according to their knowledge they will not have to break their labour contract owing to their being called up for military service /Militaerdienst und Waffengattung/.

Working time. Working time and its calculation is regulated by the Wage Regulations. If there is no Wage Regulation, or if it does not contain a rule about working time and its calculation, the following applies:

- Two hours are granted for breakfast, lunch and supper, which time is not included in working time;
- The journey from the state to work and from work to the state are included;
- In essential cases overtime is worked; the judgement of whether a case is essential depends entirely on the leader of the undertaking or his representative.

Otherwise the legal regulations apply.



Besides Sundays and Protestant festivals and the Slovak State holiday /14th March/ Roman- and Greek-Catholic workers have the right to observe these Roman- and Greek-Catholic holidays: the Epiphany, Corpus Christi, Saints Peter and Paul, the Assumption of Our Lady, All Saints Day, and the Immaculate Conception, as long as the appropriate Roman- or Greek-Catholic church body does not transfer the celebration of the festival to the next Sunday. If it is not possible to transfer the holiday and the workers work on that day, they receive Sunday wages. This also applies if the Slovak workers work on the Slovak State holiday.

The attendance of seasonal workers at divine service on Sundays and church festivals is facilitated if desired.

Wages. If the Wage Regulation of the place of work applies to seasonal workers, Slovak workers receive the same sum of wages as the German workers.

If there is no Wage Regulation for the place of work regarding seasonal workers, the Slovak workers receive the same sum of wages as the corresponding category of German workers. If there is no Wage Regulation about piece work it is settled that seasonal workers carrying out normal work, receive at least 30% more than on time rates.

For overtime and Sunday work the respective legal or wage regulations apply.

Wages in cash amount for

Men .....	Reichs pfennig	per	hour
Women and girls .....	"	"	"
Leading workers .....	"	"	"
Overseers .....	"	"	"
		per	day
		per	week
		per	month

Payments are based on these principles: wages are paid weekly and on the day ..... 3 RM of the wages for the first six weeks and 2 RM of the wages for a further nine weeks is payable only before the orderly departure of the worker. The orderly departure is equal to the labour contract being dissolved through no fault of the worker.

In the case of inexcusable and unjustifiable absence the leader of the undertaking has the right to deduct from the wages an amount which corresponds to the work which the worker neglected and from the next wages the value of the payment in kind at its market price.

Only the leader of the undertaking can pay out wages, or his official, in the presence of the overseer, but never the overseer, the first mower /Vorschnitter/ or the leading worker.

Complaints against the calculation of wages should as far as possible be made during payment or immediately after it; if some complaints arise out of the decision of the actual number of hours worked or about piece work, these can be taken into consideration during the fortnight after payment.

Besides the above reduction of the settled wages the prescribed legal taxes are deducted from the workers wages, and the worker's share of contributions to social insurance /health and invalidity insurance/. It is not possible to make other deductions.

The leader of the undertaking posts up in a visible place in the living rooms of the workers, after agreement with the Council of Trustees /Vertrauensrat/ an announcement which gives the amount of deductions for different groups of workers. /Men, boys, women, etc./

In the payment of wages the Slovak seasonal workers receive the same accounts as is usual for workers at home in the same undertakings /pay envelopes, pay tickets./

The sending home of saved wages is done by the leader of the undertaking. He is obliged to carry out the transfer without delay, as



upon as he receives the money from the worker. Repeated breaking of this regulation gives the worker the right to give immediate notice.

- Leave. The seasonal worker has no right to holidays. He is however allowed leave:
- a/ in the case of the death or serious illness of his parents, his wife /husband/ or children;
  - b/ If the worker has urgently to appear personally at a court or office in Slovakia;
  - c/ For the urgent settlement of necessary financial or family business, which cannot be postponed.

A worker has the right to payment of wages only in case a/ on the same level as a German worker.

The reasons for which a worker asks for leave must have official /borough/ sanction.

Payment in Kind. Workers receive payments in kind of the same sort and quantity as German seasonal workers are granted according to the valid directions. In the assessment of wages in cash it is taken into account that each worker receives weekly 12 1/2 kg. of potatoes, 7 litres of skimmed milk /1 litre daily/ or 3 1/2 of full cream milk /1/2 litre daily/ 3 1/2 kg. of bread, 1 kg. of barley, meats or legumes, 1/2 kg. of rye or 3/8 kg. of wheat flour, 1/4 kg. of fats and 1/4 kg. of salt.

If the workers cannot be paid in kind according to the valid legal directions, this must be compensated for in money.

If the goods can be supplied, the money compensation for payment in kind can only be made with the consent of the worker. Compensation is given according to the official maximum cost of production, or if not, according to the market price of the nearest market.

Living Quarters. Further the worker is granted communal, faultless /einwandfrei/ living quarters, furnished with tables, seats, washing accommodation, and also lockers. /The sexes are divided/. Further there have to be stoves for cooking and washing, sufficient heating, and for each person a bed, a palliasse, a pillow and a woollen coverlet. Billets have to conform to the hygienic requirements.

Meals are cooked by a woman assigned to this task by the leader of the undertaking; she also cleans all the living rooms and dormitories and peels potatoes, for which she receives the necessary free time. She has the same wages as the other women, and for Sundays and holidays she receives appropriate pay. The number of cooks depends on the number of workers.

Journeys. Travelling expenses from the frontier to the place of work, expenses of general and special labour permits and permission to stay are borne by the leader of the undertaking. On the final termination of the labour contract the workers have a right to a leave ticket to the last German station by which they came into the country to take up work.

Working tools. The workers are obliged to keep the tools given to them by the leader of the undertaking clean, and to return them undamaged. The workers have to pay in cash for all damage arising from improper use /ordnungswidrig/, and also for loss of implements.

Moral Behaviour. Each worker undertakes to perform the work given to him according to his best abilities; to obey the orders of the leader of the undertaking or his representative, and most particularly also to keep the house rules. For important reasons, especially if one of the parties to the agreement is guilty of violent action /Tatlichkeiten veruebt/ uttering rude insults, or making immoral suggestions, the other side has the right to dissolve the labour contract immediately. It is considered an important reason for the leader of the undertaking if a worker refuses obstinately or if he grossly neglects his duties, and for the worker if the leader of the undertaking refuses to pay the agreed wages, or if he pays them repeatedly unpunctually, or if bad food is



unchanged in spite of having been brought to his notice several times, or if he does not improve the state of damaged billets. The labour contract can further be prematurely dissolved if:

- a/ the worker is incapable of the work for which he was engaged;
- b/ he has to enter military service;
- c/ the Central Labour Office in Bratislava demands the worker's release for serious reasons.

The worker's passport and other labour papers must not be taken away from him against his will.

If the agricultural work is finished before the 15th December of the current year the leader of the undertaking is obliged to announce a dismissal date to the workers a week beforehand.

**Illness.** In the case of illness each worker has the right to benefits from  
**Insurance.** the appropriate health insurance institute. In the case of incapacity for work the workers receive benefits in place of the settled wages in cash and kind. If the above-named payments in kind are made to a sick worker, the worker has to pay their market value. The leader of the undertaking and the worker are bound by law to pay the health insurance contributions and to do so in the proportion settled by the rules of the insurance institute.

Hygienic and protective directions - particularly the direction about the use of artificial manures - which apply to German workers, apply also to Slovak workers.

**Social Welfare.** Commissioners of the Reichs Ministry of Labour, of the Regional Labour Office and the labour offices who identify themselves, have free access at any time to the workers' living and working rooms. They are bound to listen to the complaints of the leader of the undertaking and of the workers, and to do their best to settle them and to strengthen the harmony among the workers themselves, and between the workers and the leader of the undertaking. For this purpose the parties to the agreement have to give them the required information and explanations.

**Disputes.** Complaints arising from the fulfilment of this agreement or from the carrying out of work in the enterprise between the workers and the leader of the undertaking or his authorized deputy have, as far as possible to be solved on the spot.

A German court is competent for all disputes arising out of the agreement, according to German law.

Place and date .....  
 Signature of the leader of the enterprise or his representative .....  
 Labour Office .....  
 Deputising for .....

Visa of the Slovak Labour Office

Note: This agreement is to be prepared in 5 copies.



Persons bound by  
the agreement

Christian name and surname Women should give maiden name.	Address	District	Date of birth	Family state single married widowed separated	Knowledge of German yes no
Kind of work. Overseer.	Leading worker of the group.	Man or Strong boy.	Boy.	Woman or Girl.	Signature of Mark.

This confirms that the agreement has been read through to the above-named workers in their own language, that they understood it correctly and by their signatures /marks/ ratify its whole contents.

The workers were issued with bank certificates No. .... to No. ....  
Date ..... 194

Signature of the representative of the parties  
bound by the agreement.

The above-named workers were today medically examined. They are healthy, have no infectious diseases and are without physical defects which could be detrimental to their work.

Date ..... 194

Signature and stamp of the official doctor.

As concerns the premiums, the movement of workers executed by the labour offices, and the borrowing of workers, the same applies as was set out in Part I, pages 14 and 15.

Change of employment. The arbitrary transfer of a worker from one employment to another, or from agriculture to industry is very difficult and has a series of results unfavourable to the worker. If the worker changes his employment without the consent of the labour office, he loses the right to send home his savings -15-. The labour office permits the leaving of agricultural work and the taking up of employment in industry only in very exceptional cases /for reasons of health/ so that in practice, a transfer from agriculture to industry entails the loss of the right to remit money. -27-

## 2. Taxes.

Double Taxation. Der auslaendische Arbeiter in Deutschland -4- states: "The taxation of foreign workers belongs, according to international taxation law, in principle to Germany, unless Germany has agreements with some states on the prevention of double taxation."

The question of whether people are liable for taxation in Germany or not is decided, according to these agreements, by their permanent address. Germany has concluded agreements with Denmark, Hungary, Slovakia and the "Protectorate". What is interesting here is the conception of the permanent address, which is in direct contradiction to that which applies in the conception of permanent address for the issue of clothing coupons. For taxation, in the case of a single man it is assumed that his permanent address is in the place where he is working, in the case of a married man, the place where his family is. If a worker asserts that he is not liable for German taxation, he must provide the financial offices with confirmation of his freedom from taxation. If he does not submit such confirmation, a married subject is also liable to the above-mentioned taxes of the German state.

## 3. Social Insurance. Medical Care.

The rule valid about the social insurance of Slovak workers



working in the Reich is that they are in principle liable for social insurance in the following branches: health insurance, accident insurance, invalidity insurance and unemployment insurance, with these supplements.

**Health insurance.** The German health insurance institutes and the Slovak district health insurance institutes concluded an agreement on the 20th September 1939 about health insurance /Abkommen ueber Krankenversicherung/. The agreement states that the German institutes will pay financial benefits to persons with the right of domicile in Slovakia and the members of their family to their Slovak address as well. The scope, amount and duration of the benefits is arranged, according to the address of the Slovak member, by the directions of the district insurance institute. -3-

By the mutual agreement concluded between Germany and the Czechoslovak Republic on the 21st March 1931 this is to be applicable to the German and Slovak relations. -3-

It is further stated: Slovaks, Italians, Hungarians etc. are insured with German institutes, which pay out their benefits also in their own country, if they fall ill during leave or if they return home ill from Germany with the consent of the institute. In this case the consent of the institute to the return home must be asked for. The German institutes also grant certain benefits to the members of the family of the worker in Germany, even though they remain in their own country. -28-

**Accident Insurance.** Foreign workers receive payments of accident insurance benefits even if they remain in their own country. -28-

**Invalidity Insurance.** Invalidity insurance also covers foreign workers.

**Unemployment Insurance.** Foreign industrial workers are liable to unemployment insurance in the same way as German workers. Agricultural workers are not liable to unemployment insurance, because even German agricultural workers are not liable to it. -28-

**Sending of Benefits.** The Reichs Ministry of Economy issued a decree on the 6th January 1943 regarding the sending of benefits of the Reichs insurance to Slovakia which announced to the foreign exchange office that in principle, by the convention with Slovakia, the benefits of the Reichs insurance, which belongs to Slovak workers on the basis of their employment in Germany, as also for their family members in Slovakia, are from henceforth to be sent through the special account "Arbeitlohnernsparnisse" and in no case through the account "goods" or "capital" -29-

As regards medical care, protection of mothers, family allowances to workers, separation, furnishing of barracks, the same applies for Slovak workers as was set out in Part I. pages 17 -19-

#### 4. Measures for the Protection of Life and Health of the Workers.

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The problem of security directions and measures for foreign workers seems to be a burning question for the German employers. Accidents happen very easily in industry, as is obvious from the whole series of proofs in the Slovak press. Thus for instance Gardista -10- writes: "On the 1st November the Hlinka Guard and the Hlinka Youth will lay wreathes on the graves of the Slovak workers, buried in Berlin, and a similar ceremony will also take place in Stettin, where workers will lay wreathes on the graves of their comrades who were killed in accidents."

A few days later Gardista wrote thus: "Matus Černák, Slovak envoy in Berlin laid a wreath on the graves of the eleven Slovak workers who were the victims of a labour formation or a military attack." -22-

The Germans devote a comprehensive article to this question -17- from which we give the following:



In the employment of foreign workers it is an important task to instruct them - where they do not know German in their own language - about their work and the threatening risks of accidents or illness involved. Accidents and illness mean, not to mention the injury and expenses caused to the workers themselves, interruption and hindrance to work in the enterprise and danger to their fellow-workers. It is not an easy task to instruct workers in their own language, as in many undertakings twenty or more languages are spoken. In this connection it is necessary that the foreign workers should learn the German language as quickly as possible, and there is a further circumstance, which is that it is a national duty to consider the German language as the one important and valid language for all directions.

Therefore it is necessary to consider as a mistake in technique the attempts of some undertakings to provide the protective directions of foreign states and to give them to the disposal of the workers coming from that state. It is only possible to solve this question by having the main principles of the German protective directions translated for the workers into their own language, or by putting their contents into pamphlets or pictures.

It is expected that workers coming from a frontier district will know the German language; the mother tongue of employees coming from the inner districts of the state will be given some consideration.

It was laid down by a Decree of the General Commissioner for Labour Recruitment that the Reichs office for the Protection of Labour /Reichsstelle fuer Arbeitsschutz/ should collect and publish the German directions on the protection of workers which are issued in foreign languages.

It has been ascertained that these directions are issued to agricultural and industrial associations, Reichs roads, technical organisations and individual industrial undertakings. These last do not however like to see to the publishing of these protective regulations which among other things cause their working methods to be judged from these directions.

The article gives some pages to a list of publishers of these protective directions, a summary of their contents, the language in which they are printed, their distribution and price. /viz page 6./

#### 5. Compensation for Damage by Air Raids.

Besides compensation for damage caused on Slovak territory to Slovak state citizens the "Slovak State" also grants compensation to Slovak state subjects who remain in the territory of a foreign state on an official mission or as labourers sent to work abroad through the medium of the Slovak labour offices. This concerns compensation for damage caused to life and health, as well as .. material damage. If a Slovak worker is indemnified by a foreign state the sum of this indemnity granted by the foreign state must be deducted from the Slovak compensation. The claim to compensation for damage has to be asserted by the injured man or his representative. It is necessary to prove the damage truthfully. The Ministry of the Interior in agreement with the Ministry of Finance decides on the compensation for damage occurring abroad. -35-

#### 6. Protection of Youth.

The Nazis allege in principle that the same working conditions are valid for foreign workers as those for German workers, and therefore the law of the 30th April 1938 about the protection of youth applies to all young people who have not German state citizenship. /Decree of the Reichs Ministry of Labour of the 26th April 1941/. According to these principles the law about the protection of youth should also apply for children under 14 years old; this however does not correspond with the facts. Par. 1. of the Reichs law about school duties of the 6th July 1938 does not apply to foreigners. Children who have not German state citizenship are not obliged to attend school, unless some other procedure is laid down by an agreement. These young people are not



obliged to attend a continuation school. However foreigners retain the right to attend school voluntarily.

Conditions for the training of foreign apprentices are the same as those for Germans.

Special directions apply for Poles, workers from the General Government, Jews, gypsies and eastern workers /Osterarbeiter/ -36-.

#### 7. Clothing orders.

Regulations about the provision of textiles for foreign workers in the Reich can be summed up briefly as follows: -9-

Clothing Coupons. a/ Provision of clothing coupons. Reichs clothing coupons are given only to those people who have their permanent address on Reichs territory. From this it appears that foreign workers have in principle no claim to clothing coupons, unless they can prove that their permanent address is on Reichs territory. "By this is understood the place where the person has settled down in order to have there from henceforth the permanent centre of his whole life's activities, which in the case of foreign workers is quite exceptional". /Compare this with what is said about the taxation of foreign workers on page 15./ "If a person's work in Germany lasts for several years, that still does not mean that he has his permanent address there. Only when an employee establishes his household in the Reich and has his family brought to him and is employed for several years in the same place of work, is it possible in individual cases to speak of proof a permanent address."

There are special regulations applying to Poles, Ukrainians and eastern workers.

Working Clothes. b/ If it is necessary for the safety of the work, the workers are given working clothes, which however remain the property of the enterprise. If the workers have clothing coupons, the same number of them are cut out as in the case of German workers.

Allowance of coupons. An allowance of coupons /Bezugsschein/ is in cases of special distress issued to German workers, and in principle also to foreign workers. Of course for foreign workers the strictest possible criterion is taken in the conception of "special distress".

#### 8. Leave - Passports - Fares.

Journeys to Families. a/ Leave - Familienheimfahrt. The German labour law distinguishes between journeys for the purpose of visiting one's family /Familienheimfahrt/ which is unpaid free time and which the employer grants the worker so that he can visit his relatives, and leave itself /Urlaub/ which is paid free time, which has to serve for the recovery of the worker himself. A Slovak worker, if he is married, has a claim to a journey home for the purpose of visiting his family, if he has worked uninterruptedly in the Reich for half a year. The length of Familienheimfahrt is arranged according to how far away the worker's working centre is from his address. According to the Wage Regulations of the 27th August 1941 it applies that: for a distance of up to 500 km. the worker has a right to 7 days leave, for a distance of from 500 to 750 km. to 8 days, from 750 to 1,000 km. to 10 days leave. Workers separated from their wives, widowers and workers with illegitimate children are considered as single, and they have a right to travel to their family after one year. For workers who marry in Germany during the time they are working there, the same rules apply regarding Familienheimfahrt as to other married workers.

It is the duty of the employer to provide the workers before their departure with a leave pass /Urlaubsschein/, issued by the transport staff of the labour front /Transportstab der Arbeitsfront/ with a written request from the employer, a valid visa, a 3rd class return ticket from the place of work as far as the last station for Slovakia. It is advisable that the workers should also get their leave confirmed by the competent health insurance institute, so that they do not have



difficulties with the medical refunding if they fall ill during the period of leave. /compare page 16./ -31-

Passports  
Visas.

b/ The wireless has recently drawn attention to the fact that the passport and customs control at the frontiers is very strict. Workers may not cross the frontier taking printed matter or newspapers, only their personal documents. They can have with them 10 marks in metal coins, or in paper money one, two or three mark notes, or their exchange value in Slovak crowns. -31- The exchange of Slovak money must be made at the nearest office of the Reichs Bank /Reichsbankanstalt/ or foreign exchange bank. The bank notes the sums of Slovak crowns in marks and enters the date of their issue in the passport. If the worker has not got a passport then on the labour card /Arbeitskarte/ or the leave pass. -15-

The model agreement for agricultural workers from Slovakia -25- -26- lays down that the passport and other travelling papers cannot be taken away from the worker against his will.

Travelling  
Expenses.

c/ Travelling expenses for journeys home to the family are refunded by the employer only from the place of work to the German frontier station and back. If there is reason to suspect that the worker will not return from leave, the employer can buy the ticket for the worker, although the worker must refund the appropriate amount to him after his return. A married worker receives, on the basis of confirmation, a return ticket from the so-called Arbeiterrueckfahrt-kartenbescheinigung, which entitles him to a 50% reduction on the return journey. -31-

On agricultural workers taking up work in Germany the travelling expenses to the frontier are borne by the worker, and the travelling expenses from the frontier to the place of work by the leader of the enterprise. If the worker returns to his own country after the termination of the labour contract, the leader of the enterprise provides him with his fare as far as the last German frontier station, through which he came to Germany to take up work. -25-

#### 9. The Sending Home of Savings.

Workers  
Complaints.

The Germans know that the possibility of sending home savings from wages is a very important question for foreign workers. They have been convinced from their experience that if some difficulties occur in this matter, there are immediate complaints on the part of the employees or of the members of their families at home, the workers lose the taste for work, they become wilful /aufsaessig/ and finally they refuse to work and they return home before the expiration of their labour contract.

It does not seem convenient to the Germans to leave the sending of wage savings to the workers themselves, and so the leader of the undertaking has to carry out the sending. As soon as the worker arranges for a transfer it must be carried out. Workers who refuse to send their savings home have to be kept up to it. If a worker once binds himself that he will send a part of his wages home to his family, the leader of the enterprise deducts the appropriate amount from the worker's wages, without further requests and immediately sends it. -27-

Amount of  
Remittance.

It specially applies to Slovak workers that: from the beginning a married industrial worker can send from the savings of his wages up to 70 marks monthly, a single man up to 60 marks, a married agricultural and forestry worker up to 55 marks and a single one up to 40 marks monthly. -15- This regulation was however changed in 1943 -37- and the amount of remittances was settled thus: industrial and forestry workers form one category, and agricultural workers a second category. The former, if they are married, can send up to 80 marks monthly, if they are single up to 65 marks; married agricultural workers up to 70 marks and single up to 45 marks. They are sent through the medium of the Deutsche Bank for workers from the Herman Goering Woerke, and for others through the Dresdner Bank.



It is possible to send only once a month. Others besides workers from the Goering Woerke can only send through the account Slowakische Arbeiter, Dresdner Bank, W.8. In order to be able to send money home a worker must have a bank certificate /Bankausweise/ which he receives from the appropriate Slovak offices.

The numbers of the bank certificates have to be shown in the labour contract. On being transferred, the workers deliver these proofs to the transport manager, who sends them to the appropriate labour offices. The labour offices send the original to the employer and a copy to the Dresdner Bank. The employer keeps these bank certificates.

If the workers do not receive bank certificates in Slovakia, the labour offices ask for them at the offices of the Reichs Ministry of Labour in Bratislava. In special exceptional cases the Dresdner Bank can supply them.

Only workers who change their employment with the consent of the labour office retain the right to send savings. /Ueberweisungs-berechtigung./ Bank certificates of workers who have lost the right of remittance must be returned by the employer to the labour offices, who send them to the Dresdner Bank.

Savings from wages can only be sent by the above categories of workers. The highest number of them was settled by agreement between the German and Slovak governments. Only these workers have certificates at their disposal, the number of which may not be exceeded. Workers who came to Germany illegally, i.e. other than through the medium of the office of the Reichs Ministry of Labour in Bratislava, have no rights of remittance.

It was however agreed with the Slovak Government that all workers working in Germany on the 28th February 1942, who have no rights of remittance, have to be included in the transfer. In principle however, those workers are excepted who left their place of work, breaking their labour contract and entering another place. Further those are excepted who came to Germany illegally after that date.

This regulation however obviously causes discontent among the workers, as can be observed from the wireless and press, so that the Germans had to accede to the agreed date given above being altered on the 1st November 1942 to the 1st August 1943. -26-

We have these more recent news about the transfer: -33- For each child which the worker is obliged to maintain, he can send 50 marks once a year, if he is himself employed in Germany for at least 6 months. For a married couple, if both work in Germany, the regulation for single persons applies. It is also recent news that the Germans now acknowledge the presence of other employees from Slovakia besides workers, that is officials. These can send up to 200 marks monthly, although not by bank certificates, but by permission of the appropriate Foreign Exchange Office. /Devisenstelle/.

The same regulations apply for Slovak workers working in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Alsace, Lorraine and Luxemburg as for those working in the Reich.

#### Extraordinary Transfer.

Besides this normal transfer of money still another transfer exists, about which it is laid down: -32- "Printed forms for requests about this special transfer can be obtained from each district administration office for the protection of workers from Slovakia /ORS/ or directly from the Ministry of the Interior in Bratislava. The request must be filled in exactly according to the instructions given in the form. The reason on the basis of which the transfer is asked for must be confirmed by a borough or notary's office, and if it is a matter of a debt, also by the creditor. The stamped request is submitted to the Ministry of the Interior in Bratislava. It is necessary always to write the address of the employer legibly on the request, as far as possible in printed letters. So long as the transfer is not permitted, it is necessary to announce each change of employer with a note of when the request was handed to the Ministry of the Interior.



This prevents the permission for the transfer being returned because the addressee is not found. The Ministry of the Interior answers workers requests by two letters, of which one is addressed to the employer. In this letter the employer is asked to give his assistance to the worker in sending the money. The second letter is addressed to the worker, who is asked to send the sum which he wishes to be transferred, by means of a blank cheque /equivalent to a Money Order/ to the Dresdner Bank. As soon as the Dresdner Bank receives the money, it notifies the Ministry of the Interior of the fact and that on the basis of this notification the transfer should be permitted. The Dresdner Bank then sends the money directly to the savings bank, which money is paid out according to how much money it actually has at its disposal. It is indeed a lengthy process, but if the worker follows the instructions exactly, he can be certain that the addressee will receive the money. Each worker should realise that his fellow-workers also ask about transfers and that his impatience and inquiries on all sides do not at all speed the matter up, but on the contrary they prolong it. The process from the submission of the request to the receipt of the money in Slovakia lasts about 5 months. After this time inquiries should be made to the Ministry of the Interior, the Central Labour Office in Bratislava. The Ministry of the Interior allows each worker only one special transfer."

#### 10. Feeding Arrangements.

Agricultural workers are divided into two categories, according to whether they are employed individually or in groups. In the first case they receive allowances like agricultural self-suppliers /der landwirtschaftliche Selbstversorger/ and they eat together with their employer's family. If they are employed in groups they do not eat with the employer's family, but they receive special rations. In this case the workers are divided into five groups, of which the Slovaks belong to the first group. In the provisioning of these groups one must distinguish whether they receive wages in kind or a food allowance.

For Slovaks wages in kind amount weekly to 12 1/2 kg. of potatoes, 7 litres of skimmed milk or 3 1/2 of full cream milk, 1 kg. of barley, groats or legumes, 1/2 kg. of rye or 375 g. of wheat flour, 1/4 kg. of fats and 1/4 kg. of salt.

According to the Decree of the Ministry of the 4th May 1942, payments in kind which exceed the war rations are compensated for in money. According to the rations for agricultural workers of the first group, they get 1 1/2 kg. of flour, groats or legumes, but not however full cream milk -5-.

#### 11. Entertainment.

**Deficiencies.** From the conversation of people who left Slovakia a relatively short time ago, it has been found that the Slovak theatre and similar undertakings give performances in Germany and Austria. Gardista -14- however complains that cultural questions show a great deficiency. Various cultural organisations have indeed promised that they would provide libraries in workers centres, but they have not kept these promises. It is very difficult to send books from Slovakia, because the transfer of money is impossible. The lack of Slovak books has driven the workers to reading cheap books.

**Newspapers.** The Germans now publish newspapers for all the different nationalities. For Slovaks they bring out two newspapers: Slovenský Týžden /The Slovak Weekly/ and Úroda /The Harvest/. The Slovaks living in Banat started in September 1943 to publish a paper Banatský Rozsieváč /The Banat Sower/.



## Explanation of the notes:

- AAD - Der ausländische Arbeiter in Deutschland. /Collection of laws and regulations concerning foreign workers. It contains comments and answers of Ministry officials and various Nazi functionaries for subordinate offices./
- RAB - Reichsarbeitsblatt.
- RZ - Monitoring of broadcasts of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in London.

## N O T E S.

- 1- Dr. Timm, Ministerialrat im Reichsarbeitsministerium: Der Einsatz ausländischer Arbeitskräfte in Deutschland, RAB, No.1 of 5.1.1942, page V 5 and following.
- 2- RAB, No.4 of 5.2.1942 page II, 58 and following.
- 3- AAD, Vol. I, page 477.
- 4- AAD, Vol. I, page 277.
- 5- AAD, Vol. II, page 608 and following.
- 6- Report of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare, 1st Dept. Czechoslovak Workers in Germany, Part I.
- 7- AAD, Vol. II, page 603 and following.
- 8- RZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 24.10.1943.
- 9- Dr. Rudolf Arnold: Versorgung ausländischer Arbeiter mit Spinnstoffwaren, RAB No.16 of 5.6.1943, page V. 261.
- 10- Neue Ordnung, Zagreb, 1.11.1942.
- 11- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 27.7.1943.
- 12- Gardista, Bratislava 4.11.1943.
- 13- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 4.11.1943.
- 14- AAD, Vol. II, page 607.
- 15- RAB, No. 10/11 of 15.4.1942, page I 161.
- 16- Gardista, Bratislava of 16.10.1941.
- 17- Oberregierungsrat D. Wenzel "Arbeitsschutzvorschriften für die in Deutschland arbeitenden ausländischen Arbeiter RAB No. 26 of 15.9.1943, page V.414 and following.
- 18- Gardista, Bratislava of 29.6.1943.
- 19- Grenzbote, Bratislava of 30.12.1942.
- 20- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 18.4.1943.
- 21- Slovenský Týžden, Berlin, 6.9.1942.
- 22- Gardista, Bratislava 3.11.1942.
- 23- Grenzbote, Bratislava of 11.12.1942.
- 24- AAD, Vol. I, page 143.
- 25- AAD, Vol. II, page 636 and following.
- 26- AAD, Vol. II, page 640 and following.
- 27- RAB, No.27, of 25.9.1943, page V 432 and following.
- 28- AAD Vol. I, page 137.
- 29- RAB, No. 16 of 5.6.1943, page II 226.
- 30- Gardista, Bratislava of 30.10.1942.
- 31- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Cickler's speech on "The Way to Leave" of 28.11.1943.
- 32- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 17.11.1943.
- 33- RAB No.27 of 25.9.1943, page V.432 and following.
- 34- RAB No.26 of 15.9.1943.
- 35- RZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 17.1.1944.
- 36- AAD, Vol. II, page 665 and following.
- 37- RAB, No. 27 of 25.9.1943, page V.441.



\* Czechoslovak Workers in Germany

(Memo. by G. Min. of Social Welfare, Dec. 1943)

p. 2: Foreign workers in Germany can be divided into four groups:-

1. Subjects of Axis States and friendly aliens
2. Subjects of German-occupied States
3. Polish workers, Jews, Gypsies
4. Russian workers.

See Int. Labour  
Reviews  
Vol XLVII  
no 5  
+ ibid  
Vol XLVIII  
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p. 5. Foreign workers in the Reich find it difficult, if not impossible, to change their place of work [hence we shall find people as grouped by the Nazis].

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[The memo. discusses the machinery whereby a German undertaking obtains foreign labour: the outcome is that, to a very great extent, groups of any one nationality are kept separate from groups of other nationalities]

p. 9. Eft. :- The memo gives the gist of regulations and organisation affecting labour camps.

Nearly all the foreign workers are in camps (interpreted in a wide sense, to include all kinds of collective billets: any group of 10 or more makes a "camp").



p. 9. (cont'd).

The Nazis prefer camps for foreign workers because they facilitate provisioning, directed care, workers' order, cleanliness, health, protection against epidemics.

The whole arrangement is governed by a Decree of the Reich Minister of Labour, issued in July 1943, called "Verordnung über die lagermässige Unterbringung von Arbeitskräften während der Dauer des Krieges" — in short, "Lagerverordnung".

For economy and ease of supervision, the Nazis prefer to build large camps, and to amalgamate existing small camps where possible (Sammellager), even if they belong to different undertakings.

Camps for more than 1,000 persons may not be put near residential areas or important industries or military places. Smaller camps (for 200-300 people) can be on the firm's land or near the works.

Camps are divided into "units" (Lagereinheiten) i.e. 2/4 living huts, admin. hut, common room, kitchen, canteen, 2 store rooms.

Each camp (if one or more units) has wash house, lavatories, heating apparatus, fuel store.

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Camps are built round quads wh. are used to grow vegetables [Hence some protestine food at any rate will be in the physical possession of camp managers] People in the camp have to work on these plots in their spare time.

Feeding in camps is communal (same in rare small camps).



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Nazis prefer to employ in one establishment only people of the same nationality; but they have met difficulties in applying this principle of employment by nationality. Hence they have to take care, that different nationalities are not billeted in the same camp or in common barracks (or huts). R. Min. of Labour orders that for easier provisioning & police control work & billeting must be arranged (or re-arranged) by nationalities as soon as possible.

Inside the <sup>mixed</sup> camps, groups have to be established for separate nationalities, with divided common rooms & also national food habits must be taken into account.

The Nazis fear the effect of contact between foreign workers. The nervous strain on workers in camps is considerable.

[Hence we can't expect much in the way of discipline or willingness to stay and see what happens]

There are separate camps for men and women.

Some (large) enterprises billet their foreign workers by nationalities (e.g. Siemens).

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In spite of efforts to sort out foreign workers by nationalities and to segregate new arrivals, the Nazis have still not yet got it straight in the majority of camps.

The billeting and feeding of German workers is quite separate from that of foreign workers.

According to "Der Neue Tag", 14 Nov. 1943, there are 22,000 D.A.F. camps in which foreign workers are billeted.



p. 11 (cont<sup>d</sup>). Czech workers are known to be in Poland, Russia, Yugo, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway (near Narvik) and at many places in Germany and Austria. (List of known locations given in memo.)

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Interpreter acts as secretary for national group, mediates between them and Lagerleiter, obtains personal documents, arranges travel on leave or at end of contract, translates complaints, requests etc. In smaller camps usually one (polyglot) interpreter for several groups.

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Transit and Assembly Camps (Durchgangs und Auffenslager) ~~are~~ for workers on leave or going home for good; - they issue travel vouchers, provide, direct, organise transport, feed and if necessary billet foreign workers for a short time.

[These places, which are presumably near the frontiers, seem to be the sort of establishments we want for regulating the flow across the frontier]



p. 13 (cont'd). Some of these camps are equipped for medical control <sup>of</sup> workers going into Germany and can deal with prophylactic measures such as delousing.

Behind the frontier (sometimes at a considerable distance) there are Reich Frontier Labour Offices. These control (among other things) Frontier Crossing Stations through which foreign workers have to pass on their way into the Reich.

[We ought to be able to utilise these establishments for our frontier control; but it will need examination what we are to do (a) to get possession of them intact (b) to get them working our way at the earliest moment. It would be possible to decide (b) in full until the broad lines of the international action inside Germany are agreed].

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Several pages are devoted to wages, taxes, social and health <sup>(now)</sup> insurance regulations, accident insurance, etc.

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Communal feeding takes place chiefly in the building industry. Agr: workers, who do not have communal meals (some seem to), are given weekly ration cards, but only while they are actually on the spot. In some camps, each national group can have its own kitchen. Czechs, French, & Italians often complain of bad food. Workers dismissed or on leave often have difficulty in getting food cards on their return home, till they can prove they haven't had cards already for the current period, no matter whether they were or were not communally fed in Germany.



Notes from:-

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(Memo: by Gen. Ministry of Social Welfare, December, 1943)

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