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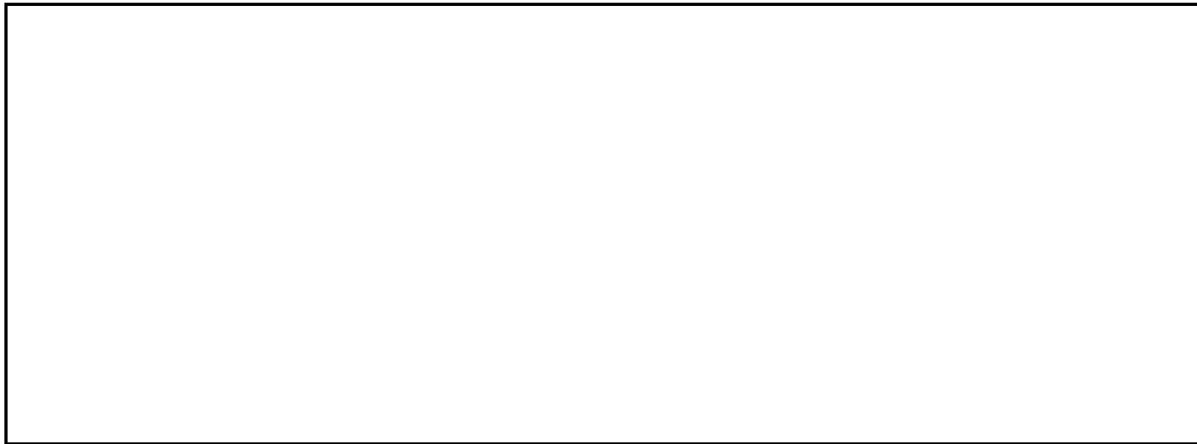
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4. BALKAN SATELLITES REPORTEDLY TO SEND UNEMPLOYED TO USSR AND OTHER SATELLITES

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Rumanian workers have been informed by the regime that unemployed persons under the age of 35 could go to develop the new lands area of the USSR, while those between 35 and 60 are needed to reconstruct Hungary, according to American legation sources in Bucharest. The workers, reported to be increasingly concerned over impending layoffs in the construction industry, have responded unfavorably to government reassurances of work elsewhere in the Soviet bloc.

Last month, a Polish newspaper reported a Soviet-Bulgarian agreement to export 15,000 "willing" unemployed Bulgarians to the Soviet new lands area on a "temporary" basis. Czechoslovakia has reportedly agreed to accept a similar number, but only if Bulgaria does not interfere with those who wish to seek permanent residence.

Comment

Although the USSR, with its current labor shortage, could use workers from Rumania and Bulgaria, it is less likely that they could be profitably used in Hungary or Czechoslovakia. Moreover, Rumanian workers compulsorily exported to Hungary would probably represent a more disruptive than constructive element, since they might be viewed as "strikebreakers!"

A recently announced Rumanian consolidation of ministries, designed to implement the publicized government economy program, has led to the dismissal of an unknown, but presumably large, number of workers, while another reorganization scheduled for later this month is expected to lead

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to the dismissal of 40,000 government officials and workers. Those dismissed are reportedly to be transferred to jobs in production, but increasing reports of abandoned building projects belie the existence of new productive jobs.

The serious situation in Bulgaria, whose unemployed are rumored to number up to 9 percent of the working force, arises from economic dislocations as well as from the release of unneeded bureaucrats.

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6. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON COMMUNIST CHINA

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Look correspondent Edmund Stevens told the US embassy in Moscow that the conditions he saw in China were in most respects superior to those in the Soviet

Union. Although Stevens, who recently visited Communist China in violation of the US travel ban, could not compare present with past conditions, Ambassador Bohlen feels that the correspondent's long residence in the Soviet Union makes him particularly well qualified to compare current Chinese and Soviet conditions.

Apart from the fact that Stevens may have received a conducted tour, his impressions were colored by the fact that his travel was limited to the Peiping and Shanghai metropolitan areas. He had no opportunity to study the peasants, who comprise the bulk of China's population and whose standard of living is much poorer than that of the urban population.

Stevens was favorably impressed by the relative availability of consumer goods and by the absence of the atmosphere of fear and restraint so pervading in the USSR. It was Stevens' opinion that the Peiping regime enjoys a considerably larger degree of mass support than does the Soviet Union. He attributes Peiping's success in large part to its skillful utilization of the trained personnel, intelligentsia, and even businessmen, of the pre-Communist era.

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**8. BURMESE COMMUNIST ATTACK MAY BE EFFORT TO
FORCE PEACE TALKS**

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The large-scale raid by Burmese Communist insurgent forces on Pegu on 29 January, variously reported as comprising 500 to 1,000 men, is regarded by the American embassy in Rangoon as an effort to force the government to hold peace negotiations.

The leader of the Burmese Communist Party, Thakin Than Tun, recently sent a letter to former prime minister U Nu requesting peace talks with either the government or the governing party, the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). The letter reportedly was considered by the AFPFL executive committee and was rejected.

The Burmese Communist Party, badly disorganized and with no prospect of military victory, has persistently sought negotiations with the government during the past year.

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