

1955

Deportations by Soviets

Resumption of Practice Is Charged in Effort to Break Silent Revolution

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The Communist daily, "Népszava," published in Budapest, carries the following advertisement in its issue of May 14, 1955: "We buy your surplus furniture for ready cash or on commission. We come to your home for appraisal and provide for transportation. Please leave your address at the Bizo-mányi Aruház (Commission Warehouse) IX. Kinizai utca 12. Telephone: 189-645."

This advertisement confirms the hitherto stubbornly denied sad reports of the resumption of deportations from Budapest. The Communists not only confiscate the homes of their unfortunate victims, but like hyenas pounce upon their possessions, which they buy dirt cheap.

Deportations in Eastern Europe have gained strength within the last months. In the three Baltic States Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Tartar, Khirgiz, Ukrainian and Russian settlers who were settled in place of the deportees have now surpassed numerically the original population.

Groups Replaced

The same has happened in the Carpathian Ukraine, west of the Carpathian Mountains. Here the Hungarians and other indigenous ethnic groups of non-Orthodox faith have likewise been replaced by Tartars, who were in turn deported from Central Asia. The Tartars are just as unhappy there as their tribesmen deported to the Baltic States.

A different kind of deportation was under way for months in Albania, where the Soviets are not merely faced by the silent revolution prevalent in other captive countries, but by open revolt. Albania has no common frontiers with the Soviet Union and therefore an exchange of population would be unfeasible. The Soviets have devised the deportation of north Albanians to the south and vice versa.

They know that resistance is easier in one's own village. People transferred to new villages have to grow roots. They have to earn their bread from day to day, as they have no reserves on which they could subsist for a while. This proved a cruel measure, for the mountain Albanians suffer from the swampy coastal climate, while the people from the seashore suffer in the mountains.

Agence France Press reports from Moscow on April 4, 1955, that the Soviets have decided the "planned displacement of the population of the so-called Moldavian Republic into the Russian provinces of Astrakhan, Rostov and the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan." This was announced by the Sovietskaya Moldavia of March 31, 1955.

Ethnic Change

This communiqué was released by the "Directorate for the Transfer of Populations and the Organized Recruiting of Labor." This deportation, called "voluntary," threatens the three million Rumanian inhabitants of Bessarabia (Moldavia) and attempts to change the ethnical character of the country.

"The volunteers for such transfers will enjoy free traveling facilities," the report adds, "including the transportation of up to two tons for each family. They will receive in addition a bonus of 500 to 800 rubles for each family, and enjoy exemption from taxation and for state deliveries of farm products for a period of two years, as well as a ten years' credit for the construction of dwellings, and a three years' credit for the purchase of livestock."

Thus the Soviet Union transforms Europe's ethnography before our very eyes. Deportations are carried out in two directions: to the Soviet Union and from the Soviet Union. For deportation is one of the instruments of terror employed for the purpose of breaking the silent revolution which paralyzes industrial and agricultural production inside the Soviet orbit.

Slave markets in Africa ceased many years ago. Traffic in slaves, however, is flourishing in the Soviet orbit.

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New York, June 4, 1955.

