

CZECHS CONTINUE MAGYAR TRANSFER

UNRRA Trucks Are Employed to Remove Hungarians From Homes Against Will

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BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, Jan. 18—The expulsion of the Magyars from south Slovakia and their removal to Bohemia and Moravia under the compulsory labor decree is being carried on under the direction of the Office for Slovak Colonization in Magyar populated regions. It will continue until either the Czechs can accept no more Magyars or Hungary offers to accept a considerable number of them.

Men on the spot in direct charge of the expulsion of the Magyars make no effort to conceal the fact that the purpose of the whole affair is to get the Magyar population off Czechoslovakia's frontier with Hungary one way or another.

In one district on the Danubian island of Csallokoez, or Zitny Ostrov, which this correspondent visited, about 20 per cent of the Hungarian population is estimated to have been removed. Removals were under way when this correspondent entered the little village of Velky Mager. Questioning by an interpreter revealed that none of those expelled was leaving voluntarily and local officials said that they had been unable to find one Magyar willing to leave.

Soldiers Guard Exits

Armed soldiers guarded the entrances to and exits from the village. Twenty families were being loaded into trucks that had been given to Czechoslovakia by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, presumably with other uses in mind. On each truck was stenciled "Gift of UNRRA." A few armed soldiers patrolled the streets or stood in the yards in front of the houses from which the Hungarians were being expelled.

Later in the Velky Leg railway station were seen box cars in which the families would travel in midwinter eighteen to twenty-four hours to northern Moravia. The peasants had equipped cooking stoves with stovepipes to provide some heat.

Two well-heated third-class passenger cars had been provided for the children and women. Forty families were expected to use the train. The men and a good many women would ride in the box cars with their household possessions. Three warm meals a day were to be provided at stations on the way.

Those in charge of the move gave the distinct impression on

the one hand of being entirely convinced that the expulsion was necessary but on the other of being heartily ashamed at having a foreigner see what was happening. However, foreign correspondents have received free access to the area and even have been aided by Czechoslovak authorities in visiting villages where the evacuations are under way.

Some of the families had a little land. Conversations with officials of Bratislava and local officials on the spot indicated that compensation for this land was not planned. This correspondent was told that all such land owned by Magyar-speaking persons would be forfeited to the state.

Slovaks Take Over Property

Slovaks from Rumania and poor Slovaks from other parts of Slovakia take over the land immediately as so-called national administrators and work it. Most of the houses also are immediately occupied by Slovaks.

Officials on the spot said most of the Hungarians would be ex-

pected to work in Bohemia or Moravia on farms as farm labor for a year at least. Many are not expected to return.

The expulsion action in the district is under the direct supervision of a representative of the Slovak Colonization Office, the Bratislava district police commander, a representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare and a district doctor.

A large number of families has been excluded from expulsion at this time because the district doctor vetoed the departure for health reasons.

The island, which was given to Czechoslovakia by the Treaty of Trianon, had been populated by Magyars for hundreds of years.

One peasant woman being expelled did not answer when the interpreter asked her if she were leaving voluntarily. Instead she leaned her head against the door of the little house that had been her home, covered her face with her hands and wept. The interpreter did not press the point. He had his answer.