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Counteracting breach of labor contracts committed by foreign workers, here: Actions against idling workers.

Circular of the Reich Leader SS and Chief of German Police
in the RMdI dated 27 September 1943 - S IV D No. 696/43 (for.work)

Decrees dated 16 November 1942, 15 Dec 1942 and 13 July 1943
- S IV D No. 479/42 (for.workers)-)

(1) In section II of the decree from 13 July 1943 reference was made to special proceedings as applied by individual State Police Regional Offices, according to which meetings are held from time to time in individual plants at which cases of breach of labor contracts by foreign workers are discussed right on the spot and decided upon immediately. In addition to that the State Police Regional Office Prague, on the grounds of repeated complaints, has introduced special surprise actions against those guilty of breach of a labor contract, idling workers and individuals suspected of sabotage and immediate prosecution of such individuals. This procedure has brought good effects already and has resulted in a remarkable improvement of labor discipline and consequently in an increase of production.

(2) Since a decline of labor discipline among foreign workers -especially considering the latest military and political events- has been generally noticed, an extension of this procedure also in the remaining State Police Regional Office areas seems suitable. To that I give the following directives and examples.

It has to be established in closest cooperation with the Betriebsfuhrer in which plants the number of those breaking labor contracts, idling workers and persons suspected of sabotage is on the increase or is apt to bring about prejudice to the

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production. These plants -possibly also the employees' community accommodations- are to be raided by surprise first, after agreement with the Betriebsfuehrer and Counter intelligence agent or, in a given case, after notification of the Reich Labor Trustee and the proper agency of the German Labor Front. By using a sufficient number of officers a thorough check of foreign workers employed at the picked out plants or their branches is to be secured. It seems suitable to fix the beginning of these actions at the moment when work is started or at the beginning of a week in order to seize at the entrance of the plant those foreign workers who are late for work. By raiding individual working sites idlers etc, can be found. In short and simple proceedings the respective individuals are to be interrogated in the plant immediately after the seizure, then they are to be reprimanded or arrested and forwarded for punishment. As an additional measure, if only a reprimand has been administered, the idlers may be employed on Sundays and holidays in digging splinter trenches, fire extinction ponds, etc. Their reporting for this work has to be enforced by threats of stiffer measures -confinement in a disciplinary labor camp. In case of disobedience this confinement has to be effected.

(4) It is emphasized that the punishment is to be administered immediately following the action since thus an especially deterring or educational result may be obtained. By more actions of this kind, carried out in rather short intervals at the same plants, a further improvement of labor discipline may be expected. The repetition will have to correspond with the results obtained.

(5) During these actions the factory- or plant physicians have to be contacted since they are particularly pestered by foreign workers lately who try to get sick leave by wilfully injuring themselves or by artificially aggravating these injuries.

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(6) These actions have to cover in the first place foreign workers. But there are no objections if German nationals apprehended on such occasions are also punished according to rules pertaining to them. This will be the case, first of all, with foremen who by their own unpunctuality and neglect induced foreign workers under their supervision to a similar behavior.-

Of course proper means are to be used against violations committed by the plant.

(7) Experiences made are to be reported to this office; at the same time a description of the result is to be given, for the time being once, on 1 January 1944, in special cases immediately.

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