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MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE ABSTRACTS
OF
UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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2. Typhus and Typhoid Fever Epidemics in Rumania.

"An increasingly serious typhus and typhoid fever epidemic broke out among the technicians and more than 10,000 free workers and forced laborers working on the construction of the 'Lenin' hydro-electric power plant at Stejar-Bicaz.

The disease rages primarily, of course, among the overworked and undernourished political prisoners employed at the construction.

"According to correspondence from Bucharest, confirmed by concurring statements of recently expelled Italian nationals, the forced laborers have been isolated from the rest of the workers in an attempt to prevent the spreading of the epidemic."

ANALYST'S COMMENT: Food or waterborne typhoid fever and louse-borne typhus fever are endemic in Rumania. Outbreaks such as these are the result of lack of immunization and other preventive measures, and of unsanitary living and working conditions. This report confirms previous references to the marked distinction between health measures for free workers and for forced laborers that characterizes the Soviet orbit. While public health measures are in general widely applied, the health of forced laborers appears to be completely neglected. These groups are therefore continuing epidemic foci.

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