



Beograd, 19.II.1956

DISASTER AT MAVROVO 89 m

West Macedonia is shaken by a terrible disaster. From the sloping grounds of mountain Keraba suddenly dropped down enormous avalanches, pulled down and choked up sheds of building-ground at Mavrovo's hydro-electric power-station, one watchtower on the Yugoslav-Albanian border and several houses in the surrounding area. The snow slides stopped the road and all other communications in this part of country. The greatest catastrophe took place at Strezimir building-ground.

This worker was the first that succeeded to reach town Gostivar and bring the news of the great disaster. Immediately was formed a head-quarter for rescue and evacuation and from all sides people rushed to help the unhappy men.

Among the first that arrived very close to the place of accident were President of the National Macedonian Assembly, Lazar Koliševski and general-colonel Rada Naumovitch. The huge layers of snow made the rescue operations very, very difficult, and of course the same layers caused the slides. Limited area of movement obstructed our camera-men to make shots on the place that was worst damaged.

Military forces from the near located regiments and group of skyers reached first to the very place of accident. In the unequal fight between men and nature, humane courage succeeded to save at least wounded people, and brought them to the first medical station.

Besides the military forces the inhabitants of surrounding villages have also arrived and helped in cleaning of roads for wounded people to be sent to Skelje's and Gostivar's hospitals. Simultaneously with the rescue action was done the evacuation, for the new avalanches were menacing.

Two soldiers of the military frontier-escaped from the terrible death at the last moment. They were in the very watchtower that was ruined. Due to the last information in the disaster are perished and lost 54 people. They are full of heroic thinking about it's friend's destiny.

Delegates of the Macedonian National Assembly, Yugoslav Army and about 60,000 citizens escorted bodies of the 13 dead borderers.

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