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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2006

CONFIDENTIAL  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DST-25022

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 6, 1950

SUBJECT: Question of a Visa for Durcansky, FERDINAND

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Paul Kazimer, President, Slovak y Amerika  
Mr. J. C. Sciranka, Editor, Slovak y Amerika  
Reverend Rudolph Dilong, Representative of Durcansky  
Mr. Lowell E. Jones, Honorary President of the American  
Friends of Slovak Freedom  
H. C. Vedeler, EE

COPIES TO: EUR - Mr. Bonbright  
EE - Mr. Yost  
          Mr. Reinhardt  
S/P - Mr. Joyce  
VD - Mr. DeHeureux  
L/E - Miss Fite

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Messrs. Kazimer, Sciranka, and Jones accompanied Reverend Dilong in a call to request the Department's support for admission of Ferdinand Durcansky (former Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic and now head of the Slovak Liberation Committee) to this country. They suggested that since Karol Sidor had received a visa many Americans of Slovak descent believed that Durcansky should also be issued a visa. They said that this was all the more important in that Durcansky was a more forceful leader than Sidor and had a larger following in Czechoslovakia. They maintained, moreover, that many of their friends and readers of the Slovak y Amerika could not understand the Department's attitude if Durcansky should not receive a visa when Sidor had obtained entry to the United States.

I pointed out that in our view the two cases were distinguished by important differences. Durcansky had been listed as a war criminal by the United Nations War Crimes Commission sitting in London and because of this the Department could not find it possible to recommend the issuance of a visa for entry to the United States if an advisory opinion should be requested by any consular officer abroad to whom Durcansky might apply. This had been our view previously when the same question had arisen, and after Mr. Jones had called a few days ago the matter had been considered again. Our conclusion was that there was no basis for changing our earlier view.

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They asked whether any appeal might be made against this decision or the findings of the United Nations War Crimes Commission. I replied that the United Nations War Crimes Commission comprised a number of trained lawyers considered of objective attitude from various nations, including the United States and Great Britain. We had been guided by their findings in many cases and saw no reasons thus far not to accept them in the present instance. It would not, therefore, seem likely that our position would be changed even if the matter were carried higher. In response to their request for information regarding the grounds on which Durcansky was listed by the United Nations War Crimes Commission as a war criminal I stated that we would look into the records of the case and inform them of what we were able to find in this connection.

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