

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

SECRET COPY
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

ADSO

SODB 3840.3

JUN 7 51

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM: W. O. Ryan
Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Slovak Liberation Committee

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2008

1. Due to recent interest in and frequent requests for information pertaining to the Slovak Liberation Committee, also known as the National Committee for the Liberation of Slovakia, and various members and affiliates, we wish to advise you of the following data which has come to our attention.

2. Attached is a copy of SOCS-38568 of 29 September 1950 entitled "Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY" which was directed to the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

3. The following information dated November 1950 emanates from a representative of the Slovak Democrat Party then located at a DP Camp in the American Zone of Germany.

I. Political activity until March 14, 1939.

(Dr.) Ferdinand DURCANSKY was born on December 18, 1896 in Bratislava. He became deputy for the "Lidovy Strana" (People's party) - HSLS - in the Czechoslovak Parliament. He was one of the members of the first Slovak autonomous government, appointed by the central government in Prague, headed by Gen. Syrový, for the HSLS - Dr. Ferdinand Durcansky, CERNAK for the agrarian party and TEPASKY and LICHTNER. This event took place in Prague on October 7, 1938.

Durcansky together with Tiso, Mach and the rest of the Slovak fascist personalities, approved on February 8, 1939 the agreement about a mutual course of the HSLS and the SDP (Sudeten-Deutsche Partei). This agreement was signed by Andrej Hlinka with K. H. Frank, August Kundt and Ing. Fr. Kavanec, the leader of the Slovak Germans. Into this agreement was also incorporated the united Hungarian party of Esterhazy. Immediately after the Anschluss of Austria Durcansky and Mach negotiated in Vienna with the Sudeten-Deutsche Heimatsbund through Rudolf Verre; the purpose of these negotiations being the destruction of Czechoslovakia.

INDEX

RECLASSIFIED	
RI/AN	✓
RI/HS	✓
201-9361	
RI/F	

SECRET COPY
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

IR COPY

7 June 1951

2549

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

He also took part in the organizing of a mass rally of the HSIS in Bratislava on June 5, 1938, during which the agreement of alliance was proclaimed between the USSR and Czechoslovakia. He prepared a memorandum for the immediate creation of a Slovak autonomy which was sent to Lord Runciman, with the knowledge that this will harm the international position of Czechoslovakia. In July 1938 they were among the founders of the "Hlinkova garda" into which they incorporated (as a cadre) members of the former anti-state organization "Tuma's Redobran". In summer 1938 they sent to Prague deputy Stefan Hassik as a permanent representative of the HSIS. Hassik was also active as the liaison man between the HSIS and the leaders of Hanlein's party. On September 19, 1938, upon the request of the German minister of Foreign Affairs, Ribbentrop, Durcansky agreed with the proposal to present to the constitutional authorities of Czechoslovakia such radical demands which would bring about a change of the democratic institutions of the Republic (Dr. Benes) and also unfulfillable requests to Prime minister Dr. Hodza. Together with Tiso, Mach and the others they called a meeting of the executive committee of the HSIS for October 5 and 6, 1938 to Zilina, where a plan was worked out on the basis of which they forced the transfer of government and executive power and later also the legislative power to Slovakia. Immediately after October 6, 1938 they dissolved the Communist party, the Social democratic party and forbade the activity of the Slovak National party. The other parties (agrarian, tradesmen party etc.) merged with the HSIS. By official decree they allowed the activity of the Hlinkova garda and armed Tuma's Redobran. All the properties of the dissolved gymnastic associations were transferred to the Hlinkova garda. He took part in the holding of elections on December 18, 1938 into the Slovak autonomous Parliament according to the pattern of Nazism and bolshevism (one party without opposition). In the press and radio he provoked hatred and antagonism against the Jews. In October 1938 Durcansky and Mach visited Seyas-Inquart in Vienna and the following day Herman Goering in Berlin, where they presented the request that Germany should aid Slovakia to break away from Czechoslovakia. At this occasion they promised that an independent Slovakia would be in close cooperation with Germany in military, political and economic matters. On October 28, 1938 they discussed the same matter in Munich together with Tiso and Ribbentrop. Later they conferred also with other German and Croatian fascists. In October 1938 they asked the Government of the Third Reich and that of fascist Italy to decide about the request of Hungary about ceding some Czechoslovak territory. He took part with Tiso and Dr. Erno (the representative of the Prague government - Ministry of Foreign affairs) in the discussions with the Hungarians at Komarno, with the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs - Kanja. Following this the entire southern part of Slovakia was ceded to Hungary on November 2, 1938.

U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

In February 1939, behind the back of the official Prague Government, Durransky and Tiso, together with others, commenced direct preparations for the break with Czechoslovakia. They sent to Berlin a delegation of economic and political officials for the purpose of working out with Goering the conditions of economic cooperation between Slovakia and Germany. Together with Mach they persuaded Ludovik Matuskany to step up the attacks against Czechoslovakia within the framework of the Slovak broadcasts from Vienna and to prove that it is impossible for Czechs and Slovaks to cooperate in one mutual state and stress the importance to create an independent Slovak state. During the first half of March 1939, when the Germans were organizing unrests and disturbances on the territory of the II. Republic, Durransky by his unwise steps and political demands brought about such an internal political situation between March 9-12, 1939, that it was easy for the German officials to make use of it militarily and politically to take measures against Czechoslovakia. Together with Mach they called to Slovakia groups of trained German terrorists who were supposed to execute attempts on the lives of political officials of the opposition. They took charge and accepted from the Germans explosives at Petrvalka, which were later used. On March 10, 1939 - (immediately after March 7 when the Prague government and Tiso's autonomous government were dissolved) Dr. Durransky went to Vienna and in broadcasts exhorted the nation to resistance against Czechoslovakia (and the Hlinkova garde). He ordered them to accept only his requests and to take over the power. The same day he made arrangements for Hitler to send his plenipotentiary to Bratislava to discuss the break of Slovakia from Czechoslovakia. He also sent him a memorandum in which he protested in the name of the Slovak government against the steps taken by the official government in Prague and asked for assistance of the German government for an independent Slovakia. On March 13, 1939 Durransky and Tiso had discussions in Berlin with Ribbentrop, Hitler and others about the break of Slovakia from Czechoslovakia.

II. Activities during the existence of the Slovak state.

After the proclamation of the so-called independent Slovak state on March 14, 1939 by the Slovak Parliament, Dr. Ferdinand Durransky accepted the function of minister of interior. He brought about the abandonment of the democratic system in Slovakia which resulted in the creation of a dictator-like regime in Slovakia, on the pattern of the Nazi regime and the closest cooperation with Nazi-Germany. On March 17, 1939 he signed an agreement with Hungary about cession of a part of southern Slovakia to Hungary. Durransky and Tiso agreed that the German should disarm by force all Slovak military garrisons in western Slovakia and that the German army should take charge of the military factories at Dubnica and Považska Bystrica. They also agreed that the German army should take over and transport to Germany all military material, weapons, gasoline, automobiles etc. in the value of over 2 billions Kos, which

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

considerably increased the stocks of the German army and decreased the Slovak national property. They also gave their consent for German consultant to be appointed to the Ministry of National Defense in the form of a military mission. In August 1939 they completed discussions and Tiso finally signed an agreement about the so-called defense zone in western Slovakia which rendered Germany outstanding assistance for the future conduct of the war against Poland and the USSR. Between March 18 and 23, 1939 Durovsky met with Herman Goering and signed an agreement with him about economic and political cooperation and inter-state payments between the so-called Protectorate Bohemia - Moravia and Slovakia.

In 1940 he took part at an agreement whereby Slovakia undertook to send workers to Germany (100,000 - 120,000 persons), who were forced to work in the Third Reich in different cities under dangerous conditions. It is necessary to add that the Slovak state accepted the obligation to pay in Slovak currency at home whatever the workers could save in Germany, out of funds of the National bank.

Durovsky as a member of the government of the Slovak state gave his consent together with others to reconstruct state highways, bridges and railroads so that they could serve Germany for military purposes and transport of material and personnel for their attack against Yugoslavia and Greece in 1941. He also participated in the military preparations against the western allies and the USSR. He agreed to send against the USSR a corps in the strength of 2 divisions (fast and technical) and together with others declared war on the USA on December 12, 1941 and also on Great Britain. He was also co-responsible that Slovakia signed the "Three power pact".

Durovsky ardently camouflaged the true facts and declared, especially during the time of the Slovak uprising in 1944-1945, that the Slovak state is independent, praised Adolf Hitler, the German Reich, uttered slander against the western powers and their government institutions. Already then, when it was clear to everyone that the fall of Nazi Germany and consequently that of the so-called Slovak state is imminent, he began to make speeches emphasizing the unacceptance of a renewal of a Czechoslovak state and praised and defended the idea of a Slovak state.

In this period Dr. Durovsky was also guilty, as minister of Foreign Affairs, that he took part in the crushing of the Slovak uprising, when thousands of persons were liquidated by the HD, POHG and by the Germans, without any court procedure. Together with the chief of the propaganda office - T. J. Gaspar he conducted a propaganda in the press and on the radio and through leaflets against the insurgents, branding them as traitors, bandits and criminals. They tried to persuade the insurgent soldiers to desert and also signed an agreement in secrecy whereby Slovakia supplied the German army and this action caused a loss of some 7 billion Kcs to the Slovak nation.

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

In the spring of 1945 Durcansky agreed with other Slovak fascist leaders that he will continue abroad his efforts about preserving or renewing the Slovak state and the government of the HSLS within its frame. Durcansky's task was to organize abroad diplomatic and military actions. On April 3, 1945 Dr. Durcansky, Tiso, Mach, Frano Tiso, Stefan Tiso and others left Slovakia and proceeded to Austria (Kranzammer)."

4. According to a statement dated 19 March 1951 from a source whose reliability is unknown but who is believed to be close to members of the PECHALA movement in Germany, ties of the PECHALA Group (Czech National Council) with the Slovak National Council Abroad (SHEVZ - Slovenska Narodni Rada U Zahranici), headed by Karel SIDOR, and to the SOV - Slovensky Celobosovaci Vybor of Ferdinand Durcansky, are entirely friendly and there is close cooperation in various sectors.

5. The British reported the following on 1 March 1951:

"2. DURCANSKY arrived in the U.K. by air from Zurich on 14 September 1950 to stay two or three weeks with Igor BAZOVSKI, the vice-president and organizer of the British Branch of the Slovak Liberation Committee, and to contact the Scottish League for European Freedom. The latter is a right-wing anti-Communist organization which interests itself in Central European emigre problems in this country. Its activities are directed by John F. STEWART from Edinburgh. Upon arrival, DURCANSKY stated that he was attached to a passive resistance movement in connection with Communist-dominated countries. He also said he was later to attend conferences sponsored by the Moral Re-Armament Group (Dr. BUCHANAN's Oxford Group) in Switzerland, France and Italy. DURCANSKY was travelling on an Argentinian document of identity No. 6246 issued at Buenos Aires on 27 June 1950; and was described as "Director of chemical factory". He was born at Hajec, Czechoslovakia, on 18 December 1906. He was at one time Slovak Foreign Minister in the Tiso Government, and at the end of 1945 together with a small group of Slovaks, fled before the arrival of the Russian Army from Slovakia. These emigres met in Rome, where they formed the Slovak Action Committee, and later DURCANSKY, with a number of others, went to South America and settled in Buenos Aires. It is reported that after a meeting in New York in 1949, the scope of the Slovak Action Committee was widened to include representatives of four Slovak political parties and was re-named the Slovak Liberation Committee with DURCANSKY as its chairman. The headquarters of this group is at Buenos Aires but branches are reported to have been established in the U.S.A., France, Spain and Germany, Italy and England. Its aim is to achieve Slovak independence and it is as strongly opposed to any form of Czechoslovak Government as it is to Communism. Its propaganda is conducted through a monthly journal called "Slovenska Republika" printed in Slovakian language in Buenos Aires.

3. The British section of the Slovak Liberation Committee came into being in June 1949 and its principal organizer is Igor BAZOVSKI.

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U-36 OFFICIALS ONLY

Most of its members are E.V.W.'s who have arrived in England during two and a half years. This group is anti-Communist, pro-German and Anti-Semitic; it can be described as pro-Magyar but has very few supporters and is not regarded with favor by a number of Slovak separatists in this country.

4. Dr. DURCANSKY left the U.K. by air for Montreal on 14 December 1950 and has not returned here since. It is believed that he was in touch in London with Peter PRIDAVOK, Secretary General of the rival Slovak separatist organization, the Slovak National Council Abroad, with a view to bringing about a reconciliation between the two rival groups."

6. On 21 March 1951 a source whose connections with various Czech and Slovak emigre groups and who is a personal friend of Dr. DURCANSKY submitted the following report:

" Report on the Slovakian Committee for Liberation (slowakische Befreiungskomitee) and the Slovakian National Council

The Slovakian Emigration

In order to judge the so-called Slovakian emigration in Europe and overseas, consideration must be given to several questions, without knowledge of which it is impossible to place in logical inter-relationship the various matters connection with the entire European emigration.

Within the Slovakian emigration are two main groups:

- a) The Slovakian Committee for Liberation, created and led by Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY.
- b) The Slovakian National Council, created and led by (Dr.) Karel SIDOR.

Both Dr. DURCANSKY and Dr. SIDOR have been marked figures in Slovakian politics for the last twenty years. Both personalities played a decisive role in the genesis of the independent Slovakian state (14 March 1939).

The positions taken by these two Slovakian politicians in their fight for the freedom of their people were different. Although Dr. DURCANSKY was a thoroughly convinced follower of the ELINKA Guard and a leading exponent of the Catholic student youth movement founded by Peter ELINKA (which gradually gathered together in the so-called Mastis Circle), he can be adjudged as a great realist in politics, possessed of great elasticity which permitted him to yield in superficial matters (including German suggestions about the establishing of the Slovakian state). The dispute of DURCANSKY, in the summer of 1940 (?) with HITLER and RIBBENTROP at Obersalsberg, which led to his resignation as Foreign

SECRET CONTROL
U-36 OFFICIALS ONLY

C 7
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

- 7 -

Minister, Minister of the Interior, and deputy Minister President, proves that this elasticity was not without limits and that the frequently raised accusation of pro-Germanism does not have too much significance. Dr. DUBČANSKY was and is a Slovakian, above all else; he rejected the Pan-Slavic idea, which had also been growing within Slovakia for thirty years, although he was also convinced of the necessity for cooperation among all peoples in Middle Europe.

Dr. Karol SIDOR was frequently named by Pater HLINKA, in his political testament, as his successor to leadership of the Slovakian state. SIDOR has certain definite conceptions which, for some time, were made the basis for charges of treason against his people. At the decisive hour he at least "played cards" with BEKES about the founding of the Slovakian state, and for this reason he was not included in the first cabinet of that state. Instead he was sent to Rome as Slovakian representative at the Vatican and there played an important part until 1945. (He was, however, frequently attacked on the grounds that he failed to represent the conception of an independent Slovakia). Although SIDOR is anti-communistic and was the esteemed co-worker of Pater HLINKA, leader of the Slovakian people until 1939, he entertains pan-slavic concepts. His pro-Polish political attitude occasioned much distrust of him in German political circles. He never made a secret of being pro-Polish, and it is not remarkable that this tendency is strong in him today. Before his eyes there is always an image of a Greater Slavic State, grouped around Poland, which would disassociate itself from Bolshevism in the East, which would move toward a confederative framework taking in all Czechs and Slovaks in the West and Southwest, and which would at least maintain close ties with the Catholic section of the Southern Slavs (Croatia and Slovakia). For the formulation of his present ideas the concept of a block of Catholic states under the leadership of Poland, and including Hungary in this area of Slavic influence, is decisive. The extent to which he is working under the auspices of the Vatican cannot be determined from here.

These variant positions of the two leaders of the Slovakian emigration in Europe and America is not only the result of differing hypotheses imbedded in the structure of their movements but also has variant practical effects within Slovakia today. The Pan-Slavic concept and the pro-Polish political attitude were always espoused, for the most part, by the Slovakian intelligensia, who feared and rejected Bolshevism but who recognized that it would not suffice to protect only the Czechs. Because Russia was "pining away" under Bolshevism, they turned their eyes toward the (then) free Rias. Because only the intelligensia were here concerned, the number of persons moving in this intellectual-political direction (the SIDOR concept) was small. Dr. DUBČANSKY, on the other hand, has many more followers and ties to the Slovakian people. DUBČANSKY has rejected the SIDOR concept, because all brother-states of Slovakia, much like the Czechs, have seen this territory only as a source of booty. The

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

logic of this attitude can also be seen in the annexation by the Poles of certain parts of Slovakia (Orava and Javorina) in 1938.

It may be true that SEDOR has today the support of the majority of the intellectuals. DURCANSKY, however, can count on the support of all those who today stand in closest contact, shoulder-to-shoulder, with the Slovakian homeland and people, who, in the majority, wish for nothing more earnestly than the reconstitution of an independent Slovakian state associated with a new middle-European group of states freed from the influence of Bolshevism.

History of Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY until 1945

Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY was born on 13 December 1906 in Rajec, Slovakia. His father, Juraž DURCANSKY, a farmer-delegate to various regional bodies and enthusiastic co-worker of the leading Slovakian fighter and leader of the people, Pater HLINKA, appeared in the former battle with in the CSR as a senator representing the Hlinka Slovakian People's Party, H.S.L.S. The Vatican held the father in especially high esteem because of his upright stand in matters concerning the defense of the Catholic Church in Slovakia. After graduating from the Gymnasium, Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY attended the University of Bratislava, the Sorbonne in Paris, and in Der Haag, until he returned to Bratislava and completed the work on his doctorate. For a time he worked as an assistant on the faculty of law in the University of Bratislava. But the Czech government made it impossible for him to make representations to acquire the right of giving lectures at the university as a qualified teacher (by a decision of the Ministry of Information in Prague). Only after the upheaval in 1939 was Dr. DURCANSKY able to acquire this right and give lectures as an instructor (Privatdozent) on international law in the University of Bratislava.

While a student he took an active part in student affairs. He was esteemed as the co-founder of the Catholic People's Party and brought together certain circles of young Slovakian students in the organization called "Hastup". Together with his brother, Dr. Jan DURCANSKY, born 16 February 1902 in Rajec, lawyer and front-line fighter in the HLINKA Party and HLINKA Movement, and notary public in Bratislava, Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY brought out the newspaper "Hastup", which played a decisive role with the younger Slovakian generation as the printed expression of their will to fight for an independent Slovakia through propagation of the idea of autonomy.

After 6 October 1938 Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, who was still governed by Prague, became the Minister of Justice for the autonomous Slovakia. On 14 March 1939 he also became Foreign Minister for Slovakia, and in October 1939 he was entrusted with the leadership of the Slovakian Ministry of the Interior. At the same time he became deputy minister president and thus concentrated in his own hands a great deal of political power. The

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

- 9 -

accusations of his opponents were raised very soon; to the German office concerned false information was supplied, charging that DURCANSKY was working on both sides of the street and constantly maintaining contacts with hostile powers. It is true that the connections of DURCANSKY to compatriots in America never were terminated.

Because of an emotional conference with HITLER and RIBBENTROP at Obersalsberg, Dr. DURCANSKY was barely able to escape arrest. All of his offices were taken from him (in 1940?) and, under close observation, he went back to Bratislava and resumed his legal practice and private business (building up his interests in Slovakian industry - chemical works in Leopoldov).

Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY's Life and Political Work since 1945

Along with many other Slovakian politicians and personalities of Slovakian public life, Dr. DURCANSKY moved westward as the Russians marched in from the east. He first went to Kromunaster, where the Slovakian government, with Dr. TISO, remained until shortly before the advent of the American troops. As DURCANSKY moved further west, an American office impounded a drug (which, to my own knowledge, was morphium) that he had taken from his own chemical properties in Leopoldov and that was his personal property. Part of this drug was returned to him by the Americans. Meanwhile the Czechs had gotten out a warrant naming Dr. DURCANSKY a war-criminal, so that he had to disappear into an illegal existence. In 1945/1946 he kept changing his residence from Switzerland to Italy to France. At the first conference, in 1946, Dr. DURCANSKY supplied three memoranda, even though the police were close behind him. These memoranda supported the re-creation of an independent Slovakian state and concerned the following questions:

I. Legal continuity of an independent Slovakian state (Dr. TUKA, in his fight against Hungary and the Czechs, had used the same argument and had supported it factually).

II. Necessity for concluding a peace treaty with Slovakia to normalize the relationships between states.

III. Conducting a plebiscite within the former Slovakian republic. In this way substance would be given to the desire of the Slovakian people for an independent state.

At the end of 1946 or the beginning of 1947 Dr. DURCANSKY went to Argentina, partly to shake off his persecutors and partly in the hope that he would have more success in prosletysing for the Slovakian concept in America. (The conference in Paris, at the wish of President BENES, had not concerned itself with the memoranda which DURCANSKY submitted.) He took up residence in Buenos Aires, where to this date can

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

be found the headquarters of the so-called Slovakian Committee for Liberation. At the same time he is making efforts to establish a secret transmitter to build up and support the efforts of his compatriots at home to fight Bolshevism. The secret transmitter has the name "Barcelona".

DURCANSKY AND SIDOR

In 1945 Dr. DURCANSKY looked up Dr. SIDOR in Rome, to win SIDOR over to an active fight in the homeland and to the idea of an independent Slovakia. SIDOR declined with the explanation, "The idea of an independent Slovakia has been so discredited by association with the defense pact with the German Reich that one cannot be representative of such a conception. One must seek another concept, by means of which, perhaps, common cause can be made with Poland. But the time is also not ripe for this idea. All that can be done now is to try to persuade the Allied not to deliver to the Czechs the leading figures of the former Slovakian state (insofar as this has not happened already). Moreover, one must concentrate now on giving social help to the young, post-1945, Slovakian political emigration." DURCANSKY opposed this concept with his suggestion for creating a political organization which would convince the rest of the world of the good qualities of Slovakia. DURCANSKY founded the so-called "Slovakian Organisation Office", to which SIDOR was to give only monetary help, because SIDOR still had charge of state funds accrued during the period of Slovakian independence and intended for protection against an eventual endangering of independent Slovakia through the outcome of the war. (The principal purpose of this fund was to provide the means to renew, if need be, the fight for Slovakian independence.) SIDOR refused this help. Thereupon DURCANSKY turned to the highly esteemed and financially strong "Slovakian League" in America; but the League was on the side of SIDOR and had been instructed by him to make only slight financial support available to DURCANSKY, because SIDOR recognized very clearly the growing influence of his rival of former times. In this connection it should be pointed out that it was naturally easy for SIDOR, because of his work with the Vatican, to maintain uninterrupted contact with America. It is interesting that SIDOR has also taken his stand against an independent Slovakia in his publications in the U.S.A. and had always (including the period during the war) represented instead the concept of a merger with Poland.

The Founding of the Slovakian National Committee and the Slovakian Committee for Liberation

In December 1948 Dr. Karel SIDOR founded the "Slovakian National Council Abroad". This was the first experience of the Slovakian emigration with a widespread organization and far-flung organizational

COPIES CONTROL
OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

not. Headquarters was established in Rome, where the organization was financially supported by the funds mentioned above and also by the growing contributions of the Slovaks in America, the "Slovakian League". Since then SIDOR has emigrated to Canada, where a part of the Slovakian intelligentsia has gathered around him. In this fashion it may be that Canada has taken the leadership away from the headquarters in Rome. As representatives abroad SIDOR chose the following:

Rome - Dr. Karol SIDOR

London - Dr. Peter PRIDAVOK (announcer with the Czechoslovakian radio in London during the war. Later held decisively aloof from the Czechoslovakian government-in-exile. Is still thought of today in certain Slovakian circles as not wholly dependable)

Argentina - Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

Germany - (Dr.) Jozef PAUCO - last chief editor of the principal paper of the Hlinka Slovakian People's Party, the Slovakian

Evenhills, however, Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY has already created his "Slovakian Committee of Liberation". From his standpoint, accordingly, he does not recognize the priority or precedence of the National Council of SIDOR and supports the following changes:

The committee is to be composed of 75 representatives.

Of these, 25 are to come from the National Council of SIDOR.

25 are to come from the Committee of Liberation of DURCANSKY.

25 are to be freely elected.

A recognized personality, a member of neither group, to be chairman of the committee.

This suggestion was refused by SIDOR for enlightening reasons.

When Dr. PAUCO left Germany in 1949, SIDOR named (Dr.) Jan HOLY his successor. But HOLY also emigrated, to Australia. Since that date (1950) the former Slovakian consul in Berlin, (Dr.) Matus CERHIL, has been recognized as leader for Germany. In addition, the following have joined SIDOR's ranks: (Dr.) Konstantin GULEN, who from 1946 on was interned by the Americans in various camps; and Dr. (Gen.) CAVONA, former secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Dr. TUKA, who was interned by the Americans and released in 1947 and who lived in the Tyrol until 1949 or 1950, when he emigrated to Canada.

The following persons, among others, belong to the Slovakian Committee of Liberation:

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

South America (Chiefly Argentina) - Dr. Jan DURCANSKY, brother
Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

(Rev.) Rudolf DILOR (Slovakian writer)

(Professor) Stanislav MEGIER

(Lt. Col.) Jan HEDNICKY (chaplain)

(Dr.) Jan OSEKUSKA (successor to Dr. KARVAS with the RUC).

(Dr.) ZATEK (writer; pseudonym: "For").

London

(Professor) Igor BATOVSKY

(Dr.) BATOVSKY (these two are the two youngest brothers of the
gifted Slovakian BATOVSKY family).

Prague

(Professor) Jan HAPTEK (former chief of the Slovakian statistical
office)

(Dr.) Jan BRANNESKOR

Germany - (Dr.) Einar FURCHY

After the Slovakian secret transmitter "Barcelona" was set up, Dr.
F. DURCANSKY arranged for setting a second station in London. Recently
this second station transmitted twice a week since January 1951. It has
broadcasts three times a week. These broadcasts take two hours and five
days of the week on a short wave band at 4.5m.

Dr. F. DURCANSKY is presently traveling in the U.S. and Canada. He
intends to return to Europe in the spring of 1951 and to continue his
activities in London.

The Political Committee of DURCANSKY and BITEK

DURCANSKY has always favored the concept of an independent Slovakia.
Should the time ever come when an independent Slovakia is possible, then he wishes the name
of an independent Slovakia to be the name of the Slovakian people,
grouped into one state.

Because of its political position the Slovakian Committee of Liberty
has good connections with the following international organizations:

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

- 13 -

(among others):

"Anti-bolshevistic Bloc of Nations" (ABN), the largest international anti-bolshevistic organization.

"Organisation for Moral Rearmament"

"Scottish League for European Freedom"

"American Friends to Slovakian Freedom"

There are also good connections with the movement of General de GAULLE.

SIDOR, true to his old principles, works chiefly with circles of Polish anti-bolshevistic emigrants. He represents his old plans: Creating a Slavic confederation grouped around Poland and including Czechs and Slovaks as well as cooperation with Croatia and Slovenes. SIDOR also favors international cooperation of the Slovakian National Council with the Central European Federalists Club.

SIDOR also favors a Polish eastern ^{border} based on that created after the first world war and a western boundary at the Oder and Neisse."

7. It is believed that the foregoing items provide sufficient background data on the Slovak Liberation Committee and on Dr. DURCANSKY, Professor Stanislav SECIAR, according to information from a source of unknown reliability, is president of the Assembly of the Committee. He is a former professor of the University of Bratislava. Dr. Anton HUGAN, according to the same source, is Secretary General of the Committee and former director of the Polytechnic Institute in Bratislava. He is living in Buenos Aires.

8. The National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia which is headed in the United States by (Dr.) Vojtech S. KRATOCHVIC, is apparently, while more closely allied with the DURCANSKY faction of Slovak emigres advocating an independent Slovak state, attempting to make himself amenable to both the SIDOR and DURCANSKY elements. His exact position has remained unclear. We wish to call to your attention the following articles which appeared in the U.S. press early in 1951 -- an article in the "Washington Daily News" of 25 January 1951, page 38, and the February 10, 1951 issue of the "New York Times" in which mention is made of Dr. KRATOCHVIC and the latter's claims concerning his ties to resistance groups in Czechoslovakia. Dr. KRATOCHVIC's emissary to contact and interest U.S. government agencies in backing his group was Peter J. LUKAS. The claims of both were thoroughly investigated abroad and it was discovered that "their" alleged resistance contacts would have nothing to do with the National Committee of Liberation, as the latter through Dr. KRATOCHVIC and LUKAS were merely using what knowledge they had of such resistance elements in an effort to exploit

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

them for political recognition by the U. S. Government, as well as to secure sums of money through this sponsorship. For the aforementioned purpose of contacting official U. S. Government personnel and to obtain Congressional support, the National Committee for the Liberation of Slovakia set up an office in the National Press Building early in January 1951. It also allegedly continues to maintain its office at 93 Liberty Street in New York. It is the consensus of opinion of several sources that Dr. KRAJCOVIC and LUKAS are political adventurers and opportunists, who are only interested in obtaining money and political recognition.

9. A curriculum vitae for Peter LUKAS is attached herewith. It is believed that the Department of Army will be able to provide additional information concerning both Dr. KRAJCOVIC and LUKAS.

10. There is no additional information in the files of CSO/CIA pertaining to John RASHID, Membership Chairman of the National Committee for the Liberation of Slovakia, nor to (Dr.) Antek GASPARIK, Social Chairman of that organization.

SCSB 38449

Attachment: Curriculum vitae

cc: Secretary of State
DFO

M.H. Crowley

1951

SECRET CONTROL
U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

Attachment

Curriculum vitae - Petar LUKAS

AGE: 32

HEIGHT: 5' 11"

WEIGHT: 175 pounds

CITIZENSHIP: Has applied for US citizenship. (Former citizen of Czechoslovakia; born in Vienna, Austria.)

EDUCATION: Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1938 -
Ph. D. - Economics Major.
Prague Conservatory of Music - Special Studies - Piano.

LANGUAGES: French, German, English, Polish, Czech, Yugoslav,
Hungarian and Russian.

TRAVEL: New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania,
Washington, New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri,
Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Louisiana, and
Texas.
Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Switzerland,
England, Austria.
Contacts in South America, India, Canada and South Africa.

EXPERIENCE:

1939 - 1944 Czechoslovakian National Bank, Department of Statistics -
Office Supervisor; Foreign Trade Department - Assistant
Secretary and Secretary.

1944 - 1945 Confined at concentration camp at Mauthausen.

1945 - 1946 Special work for U.S. Army Intelligence, G-2.

1947 - 1949 War Relief Services, E.C.W.C. - Pier Operations Director -
New York, New Orleans and Boston.

copy in []

SECRET CONTROL
U S OFFICIALS ONLY

7 June 1949

[] 25/9

BEST AVAILABLE COPY