

Resume

At the end of the Second World War late in 1944 simultaneously with the entry of the Soviet Army into the territory of Czechoslovakia, special organs of the Soviet Security launched extensive persecution of some groups of local people. After being arrested, the victims of the persecution were, as a rule, transported immediately to Soviet military camps in Germany and Poland and then to labour camps in the Soviet Union.

In the territory of the then Carpathian Ruthenia until its official incorporation into the Union of the USSR in June 1945 thousands of people, mostly opponents of the Soviet Union and representatives of the democratic civil and political circles, were subjected to this persecution. From the territory of Slovakia from the beginning of the year until spring 1945 tens of thousands of persons were forcibly transported to the USSR, either accused of membership of activist pro-German organizations of the so called "Slovak State", or simply forcibly mobilized to assist in the post-war reconstruction of the Soviet national economy.

In the territory of the today Czech Republic the operation of the Soviet security organs started in April 1945 and lasted until the early 1948. In comparison with the Carpathian Ruthenia and Slovakia the Soviet interventions against civilians here had obviously political character. Of primary importance was apparently well-prepared roundup against the top leaders of the former Russian anti-Bolshevik emigration living in Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Czechoslovak state from the early 1920's, mostly graduates of Czechoslovak universities, ranking among the elite of the Czechoslovak interwar society (generals and high-ranking officers of the Czechoslovak military forces, professors of Czechoslovak universities, doctors, authors of outstanding works of architecture all over Czechoslovakia, technical experts of leading Czechoslovak factories, officials of the Czechoslovak state and public administration and the like). In most cases, they were Czechoslovak citizen for a long time, or at least they were the holders of the international identification of the refugee from the Soviet Russia. Along with them a number of Czech re-emigrants from Russia were dragged away who after

the seizure of power by Bolsheviks in 1917 left the former Czech compatriot community in Russia and their own property there in order to return to the Czechoslovak Republic for good. All the former top leaders of the Czechoslovak state representation in the Carpathian Ruthenia until the year 1939 suffered from persistent persecution.

All the detained persons were deported to Soviet camps. The victims of mass forcible mobilizations from Slovakia were, as a rule, placed to detention labour camps. The victims of politically motivated abductions from Bohemia and Moravia were mostly accused pursuant article 58 of the then Soviet Penal Code under which manifestations of the so called counterevolution were prosecuted, but nobody was accused of cooperation with the German enemy and only in isolated cases a vague characteristic “serving the aims of the enemy“ or “fascist enemy“ was assigned to the alleged counter-revolutionary activities. Then the conviction followed, mostly in the absence of the charged person, and journey to GULAG camps.

The Soviet security organs intervened in Czechoslovakia without any legal support. The Czechoslovak political representation striving to maintain relations between the two countries as friendly as possible was overtaken by their arbitrary rule and unfortunately, Czechoslovakia did not find enough strength and spirit to face this criminal act committed against its free citizens. Careful diplomatic moves marked by quickly increasing pro-Soviet opportunism were particularly aimed at the setting free of non-political victims from Slovakia. The Soviet Union took little interest in reversing the march of time and accordingly, it was not about to meet the demands too much.

Therefore, only a fraction of the deported persons was released, while the others followed their fellow citizens dragged away for political reasons on their way in the depths of the Soviet Union to GULAG camps. A few hundreds of them still succeeded in coming back at the early 1950's within the framework of extensive easing the Soviet repressive system after Stalin's death. But the majority of the dragged away persons disappeared in the hell of the Soviet camps without a trace.

Making use of documents preserved in the Czech archives, the author of the publication is trying to show the opportunism of the

Czechoslovak state representation towards the arrogance of the Soviet state terror as well as their inability to face the open persecution of our citizens for their opinions and attitudes inconvenient for the Soviet Union. The publication graphically demonstrate unprecedented violation of the integrity of the status of Czechoslovak citizens or people living in Czechoslovakia for a long time, stating that after the Second World War was over, the Czechoslovak Republic did nothing to prevent their detention in their country and their homes by security organs of other country as well as their forcible transportation to that other country where subsequently they were prosecuted under the law of that country and convicted to long-term punishments to prisons or concentration camps there. The author is also trying to clarify the mechanisms of the Soviet repressive system almost commonly unknown so far as well as its inner regularities.

Besides, the work refers to some cases of the already official handing over of other politically troublesome Czechoslovak citizens to the Soviet Union after the seizure of power by the Communist regime in 1948.

In the Czech literature related to historiography, history and politics this publication is unparalleled, following up previous extensive publication activities of the author after 1990. Unfortunately, however, taking into account the current state of the Czech historical sciences, the collection of evidences and testimonies gathered here is probably to remain the only aid for better understanding of this sinister chapter of the modern Czech history for a long time.