

Summaries

Twenty Years Later – Security Services Archive

(with an Introduction on the so-called Quintana Report for UNESCO by the International Council of Archives)

► **Ladislav Bukovszky**

An introductory text prepared or, rather, edited by the Director of the Security Services Archive (ABS) is devoted to the so-called Quintana Report, which the Czech public has received in its complete form for the first time, just as the 20th anniversary of the fall of the communist regime is being marked.

In the process of coming to terms with the communist past of the former states of the Socialist Bloc, the documents kept by the security forces of totalitarian power became a key issue. The UNESCO International Council of Archives conference held in Mexico in 1993 became a significant milestone in this development. This was where the issue of totalitarian regimes' archives was first "put on the table." This meeting produced an agreement on establishing a closer working group of experts-archivists, which formulated a document in 1995 with recommendations on how to proceed in terms of administering and working with the archive records of the former repressive forces of totalitarian systems.

The so-called Quintana Report makes reference to the close relationship between archives and two important issues that arise in the transformation from repressive regimes, namely memory and justice. It discusses the important role of archives in democratic transitions, archive care, legislation, ethics and the right to information.

At the time of its inception and thereafter, the "Quintana Report" was hugely important in implementing efforts to open up the archives of communist security services and in establishing new independent institutions for research on totalitarian social systems. These efforts have been partially realised in some states of the former Eastern Bloc (e.g. Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). The author of the introductory text, however, points out that in the Czech Republic the adoption of Act No. 181/2007 of the Collection of Laws on the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes has already surpassed some of the assertions contained in the original document.

Electronic Archive project

► **Petr Zeman**

This article covers preparations for the establishment of an electronic archive, which is a joint project involving the Security Services Archive and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. It presents the methodology for the preparation of archive records and their arrangement within the structure of an electronic archive. It also

deals with the issue of submitting these archive records to researchers and outlines the further development of this system.

The concept behind the activities of the restoration centre of the Security Services Archive and building up these activities

► **Martin Kostlán**

A newly established department for attending to the physical condition of archive records reflects the need for administered archive collections to be adequately cared for. The concept behind its activities is based on specific requirements in the ABS, the tried and tested standards of work by leading institutions in the Czech Republic's archive network, as well as experiences abroad with introducing the latest technological equipment. This workplace has been established on a professional level and it has been staffed with appropriately trained experts. It is structured according to two basic lines of activity. The first of these concerns the operation of technology for the mass de-acidification of unbound documents (Neschen C 500). The second involves practical restoration in actual restoration workshops. Besides these activities, this specialist workplace is also ready to coordinate all activities in the area of research, monitoring, expert supervision and consultation.

The Security Service Archive and the Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records (the IPN Archive)

► **Světлана Ptáčníková**

On 30 June – 1 July 2009, a delegation from the Security Forces Archive visited the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw (Instytut pamięci narodowej – hereinafter only referred to as the IPN) and its archive. They became acquainted with the legal bases for the activity of the IPN, the organisational structure of the archive and the work carried out by its individual sections, the means of accessing documents and the archive's publishing activities. After an introductory set of lectures, the Czech delegation inspected the IPN archive's study facilities and some of its depositories. At the end of the first day, they were then acquainted with the IPN's digitisation centre. On the second day, ABS representatives visited the conservation centre, the storage area for audiovisual materials as well as the storage area for materials that were originally on tape. They also inspected the fumigation chamber used for disinfecting archive records and the filing section. The ABS representatives thanked their Polish colleagues for the programme that had been prepared. Both

sides anticipate that collaboration in the future will not just be a formal matter but will also result in specific joint projects.

A working visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington

► Petr Dvořáček

The author has produced a report on a study and working visit by representatives of the Security Services Archive (ABS) and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian (ÚSTR) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington from 18 August to 8 September 2009.

Before the official part of the visit commenced, the delegation attended the opening of the “Prague through the Lens of the Secret Police” exhibition at the Woodrow Wilson Center and an international workshop entitled “Documenting the Role of the Communist Secret Police – Intelligence Activities and Cooperation between the KGB and Local Intelligence Agencies in Eastern Europe.” Representatives of the Security Services Archive also visited the United States’ National Archives and Records Administration, where they looked at the study facilities and acquainted themselves with how they operated and their research service. As of 24 August 2009, when the official part of the visit began, representatives of the ABS and the ÚSTR became acquainted with the operation of individual USHMM workplaces as well as the research, education and exhibition activities of the USHMM and its workers. For the ABS delegation, the trip culminated in a visit to the USHMM’s conservation centre and depositories in Linthicum Heights.

There was a farewell gathering at the end of the official part of the visit, at which all those attending agreed on the good level of cooperation that had taken place up to now and they pledged to continue in this vein.

Next stop Sudetenland

The activity of Prague’s RG 1 regiment in the north-western border area in May and June 1945

► Ondřej Sladký

This study maps the activity of the “Revolutionary Guard” (RG 1) regiment in the north-western border area of the Czechoslovak Republic in May and June 1945. The regiment was sent to the border area on the order of the ministry of national defence in order to guard railways and railway buildings as well as to “secure” their immediate environs.

The work is divided into several chapters, which cover the establishment, activity and ultimate disbandment of the RG 1 regiment in the north-western border area. A chapter called “Conflict Community” (Konfliktní společenství) is very interesting. Composed of a colourful mosaic of daily reports, it is devoted to the conflicts that the RG 1 had with other armed forces who operated in the area during the post-revolutionary period, i.e. the Red Army, the Czechoslovak Army and other paramilitary units. The excesses committed against the German community are chronicled as well. There is also an interesting survey of the guardsmen’s routine activities, such as their daily orders, exercises, catering, etc. The conclusion of the study is dedicated to the disbandment of the regiment, when a portion of volunteers were transferred to the Czechoslovak Army and some of them joined the service of the incipient National Security Corps.

The 11th Bratislavan Border Guard Brigade and the extraordinary “character” of its first commander Florian Čambál (1948–1962)

► **Ľubomír Morbacher**

After the changes in the Czechoslovak Republic that led to the creation of Border Guards (PS), staff captain Florian Čambál initially became the first commander of the 11th Bratislavan division of the ministry of national security (MNB), and he became commander of the 11th Border Guard Brigade of the MNB a year later in 1952. As a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, who was well acquainted with internal party intrigues in the “Poverenictvo vnútra” and the Border Guards, he successfully survived several purges. Despite much criticism of his work, constant disputes with his co-workers and superiors in the PS, and other excesses, he remained as commander of the 11th PS Brigade until 1962. Florian Čambál’s position depended on the survival of his mentor and “guardian” Viliam Široký in a position of power on the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and in the government. (In 1963, Široký was dismissed from state and party positions and he retired into obscurity.) After leaving the service of the ministry of the interior, Colonel Florian Čambál continued to work in the party machinery of the Regional Committee of the Slovak Communist Party in Bratislava.

The study looks at his job and work during the establishment of the 11th PS Brigade as well as during engineering and technical operations such as the electrification of wire entanglements, etc. The text concludes with evidence and statements on the fact that the commander of the 11th Bratislavan Border Guard Brigade of the MNB Florian Čambál was personally responsible for the lives of many escapees trying to cross the so-called “green border.”

Written in Slovak, the article is supplemented with photographic appendices.

The history of “Resolute” Pentecostal Christians in the documents of the Secret Police

► **Petra Gabrielová**

This article reflects on the surveillance of religious life among “Resolute Christians” (rozhodní křesťané) by the Secret Police in the 1970s and 80s.

The Union of Resolute Christians in the Těšínsko region was effectively disbanded with the publication of an Act on associations and societies in 1951. From the second half of the 1970s and especially in the 1980s, the members of the Resolute Christians (who had not met with a positive response for the observance of their faith in a Pentecostal spirit in the Protestant denominations permitted by the totalitarian regime) tried to get their community legalised as a new church. They did not succeed in doing this until January 1989, when the Apostolic Church (Apoštolská církev) was established. This united Resolute Christians in the Těšínsko region as well as in Brno and Prague, even though Resolute Christians had been congregating for masses and other religious activities since the 1970s. Their religious activities were suppressed by the totalitarian regime and a number of Resolute Christians were monitored by the Secret Police. In the years 1982 and 1983, six of their members were even prosecuted for obstructing the supervision of church and religious communities. Five of them were convicted.

The study provides a basic survey of the religious life of Resolute Christian congregations in Dolní Žukov in the Těšínsko region as well as in Brno and Prague.

The KGB and 17 November 1989

The last Czechoslovak-Soviet agreement on counterintelligence

► **Pavel Žáček**

In connection with revealing the events associated with 17 November 1989, the attention of Czech and international media has repeatedly turned to a visit made by a delegation of the deputy chief of the USSR's KGB, Major General Viktor Fyodorovich Grushko, who stayed in Prague in the final days before the collapse of communist power. The preserved archive materials unequivocally confirm that this did not concern a “second control centre”, but was a reciprocal working visit that had actually been postponed repeatedly from the original date in the spring of 1989.

Specifically, it concerned the signing of a counterintelligence cooperation agreement between the Main Counterintelligence Directorate of the National Security Corps (the 2nd Directorate of the National Security Corps) and the KGB'S 2nd Main Directorate, namely an agreement on cooperation against the so-called “external enemy”. At the end of a detailed analysis of the activity of Secret Police headquarters targeted at the representative offices of the main “capitalist” states (the USA, German,

United Kingdom, France, and others), the document was signed on 17 November 1989, literally hours before a crucial student demonstration. An original copy of this document was subsequently taken back to the Soviet Union by KGB officials.

Published accompanying documents confirm the close cooperation, scope of activity and ultimately the primacy that the Soviet Secret Police had in relation to their partners in Prague. Moreover, the specific state-security vocabulary confirms that the attitude of both political police bodies to foreign entities did not differ that much, even in 1989. Furthermore, their joint operations against foreign subjects apparently did not end in the course of the “Velvet Revolution” after the departure of KGB representatives (advisors) from the federal ministry of the interior, but were not brought to a close until the disbandment of the Secret Police or the signing of a new agreement in Moscow.

Case “N-44”

► Radek Kučera

Based on preserved archive sources, the author of this article attempts to reconstruct the circumstances surrounding the investigation of one of the most mysterious cases handled by the Secret Police (StB), which has still not been satisfactorily resolved to this day. For almost 30 years, the Secret Police fruitlessly tried to ascertain the identity of a man whom they subjected to every kind of persecution. The unknown man spent a substantial part of his life staunchly refuting all kinds of accusations and bravely resisting various methods of interrogation, before eventually taking his secret to the grave.

Everything began on 24 June 1955, when a State Police (VB) patrol arrested a “deaf mute” near the Slovak-Polish border who had no personal documents and would only give vague or fictitious information about himself. During interrogations, the mystery man stated that he was suffering from partial amnesia. He claimed that all he knew about himself was that his name was Karel Novák and that he had been born in Radhošť, from where he had been deported with his parents to Austria during the occupation. During the transportation, he was supposed to have been forcibly separated from his mother and father, and placed in an institution for deaf mutes in Graz, where he remained until 1947. After that he was taken by a military commission to Vienna. After it was ascertained that he was Czech, he was subsequently repatriated in May or June 1948 by way of a Soviet transport to Czechoslovakia. He then lived a vagrant life in the country until his arrest. An extensive investigation was launched, in which the alleged Novák was subjected to a number of interrogations, medical examinations and confrontations with witnesses from refugee camps. Nothing he was accused of could be proven or disproved. Due to the lack of evidence “Karel Novák” was released at the end of 1955. He settled in Kladno and joined the Průmstav building firm as a labourer whilst attempting to adjust to normal life. He began applying for personal documents, Czechoslovak citizenship, membership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and acceptance for basic military service.

Over the course of time, some interesting facts came to light. As of August 1956, Novák began speaking and listening in public. He attributed this change to the shock he received during a traffic accident. All the indications were that this person was a highly intelligent, educated man who had a command of several foreign languages and an excellent, above-average knowledge of literature, philosophy, psychology, history, geography, architecture, mathematics, economics, medicine, military affairs and social etiquette. Naturally, this fact did not tally with his claim that the only education he received was two years of schooling for deaf mutes.

Consequently, the Secret Police continued to monitor Novák. They gathered all the information they could on his behaviour and checked some of the information he had mentioned in his life story. A surveillance file on him was opened in 1958 with the codename “N-44”. The case was subsequently included in the nationwide EVROPA operation, which targeted so-called illegal persons. Novák was rearrested in 1961 and, on the basis of rigged evidence, he was sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment without probation by the Regional Court in Prague for espionage and infringing the rights of others. Although he was rehabilitated and released in 1969, the authorities called him back to serve out the remainder of his sentence in 1971.

For the entire duration of Novák’s imprisonment, StB officers did not give up on the idea that he was secretly an “illegal person”. Consequently, they made a number of attempts to “identify” him, and even used a television programme to aid their enquiries. None of these efforts bore any fruit. As a result, the case was shelved in 1973. The case of Karel Novák was not opened again until 1981 in connection with the renewal of the EVROPA operation. The StB department in Kladno opened a new surveillance file with the codename MARTĀN. Novák, however, managed to avoid any further measures by the StB, because he died suddenly on 17 November 1981. A search of his home and subsequent expert analyses of items seized provided no evidence of any criminal activity. The case was finally closed in 1982. One of the longest operations by the Secret Police had ended in farce.

Professor Bohumil Ryba, between science and prison

► Věra Dvořáčková

Political trials were the harshest form of persecution meted out by the communist regime. They served to help justify the totalitarian government established by the Communist Party and above all to spread fear in Czechoslovak society. The overwhelming majority of the trials were artificially fabricated and involved every kind of social group. Members of the intelligentsia were very often among those affected by political persecution.

The university professor Bohumil Ryba was an extraordinarily talented and diligent classicist, an excellent expert on old Czech manuscripts, and unfortunately one of those who got on the wrong side of the state authorities. He was arrested in 1953

and subsequently sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment on a trumped-up charge of high treason and espionage.

Although he was granted amnesty in 1960, his academic work and his life in general were considerably restricted by the regime. Professor Bohumil Ryba was not finally rehabilitated until after his death in 1991.

The 11th Directorate of the National Security Corps (1974–1988)

A brief outline of its development and activity

► Petr Zeman

This article looks at one of the operational sections of the former the Secret Police (StB) – the Directorate for the Protection of the Economy, which was a separate part of the federal ministry of the interior between the years 1974 and 1988 under the codename “11th Directorate of the SNB”. To the greatest possible extent, it outlines this directorate’s organisational structure and organisational development insofar as this has been ascertained from archive sources that have been uncovered. This includes focusing on different departments and sections. Further attention is devoted to the main lines of counterintelligence activity that this part of the ministry focused on. The paper also names the most important people and operations that were “given attention”. In conclusion, brief information is provided on the collection of records stored in the Security Services Archive, which has not yet been sorted.

Research on archive materials concerning 1989

► Světlana Ptáčnicková et al.

The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR), which prepared a number of events for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the communist regime, requested the Security Services Archive (ABS) to formulate the relevant research. This research was defined both temporally and thematically. The archivists were meant to focus primarily on the period of May and August – November 1989, or, as the case may be, on the gradual disintegration of the regime in December 1989. The subjects that were chosen primarily comprised those that were immediately connected to the events in society in 1989 and to the corresponding response of security forces, e.g. operational meetings and committees, the “A Few Sentences” (Několik vět) petition, demonstrations (including State Police materials), security measures, the readiness of security forces, and the shredding of documents in November and December 1989.

Altogether, five departments of the Security Services Archive formulated the research, and it was stylistically unified for publication purposes. In places, the reader will find

out more details on the content of a document, whereas elsewhere, he will just be given the document's name. In places where there were a lot of archive records, it is more likely that a list of the given documents will be provided. Some of the archive records that are mentioned in the research can be found on the website of the ÚSTR (www.ustrcr.cz) under the banner "1989".

The personal documents of Bishop Štěpán Trochta

► Petra Gabrielová

This small edition of documents provides a reproduction of the personal documentation of the Litoměřice Bishop Štěpán Trochta. Cardinal Štěpán Trochta, belonged to the congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco (26 March 1905 – 6 April 1974). He was Bishop of Litoměřice from November 1947. From March 1948 to April 1949, he led negotiations with representatives of the incipient totalitarian regime, who were systematically striving to make the Church subordinate to communist power. Bishop Trochta was interned in 1950 and he was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in July 1954 for alleged treason and espionage. He spent 19 months in a remand prison and served around six years of his 25-year sentence, primarily in Leopoldov and Valdice near Jičín.

Štěpán Trochta's personal documents are part of the documentation of his investigation file; archive number V-2309 MV. They were seized by the Secret Police in October 1952 during a house search of the home of Marie Zbrojová in Mělník, where they had been stored and prepared in connection with Trochta's planned emigration abroad. The fact that Štěpán Trochta had hidden his personal documents was used as confirmation of his planned escape from the country. Because the court assumed that a possible successful escape by Trochta would enable him to report on the position of the Church in Czechoslovakia, his corroborated attempt to emigrate was used by the communist judiciary as one of the proofs of his alleged treason and espionage.

List of documents reproduced in the anthology:

Document I. 15 July 1917, Francova Lhota

School report of the fourth grade pupil Štěpán Trochta, issued by the Primary School in Francova Lhota in the academic year of 1916/1917 and signed by the school administrator and class teacher Jan Kuba as well as the catechist Josef Nevtípil.

Document II. 6 June 1929, Francova Lhota

Štěpán Trochta's birth and baptism certificate, issued by the Roman Catholic parish office in Francova Lhota, administered by the parish priest Štěpán Nevrlý.

Document III. 22 December 1941, Francova Lhota

Jan Trochta's birth and baptism certificate, issued by the Roman Catholic parish office in Francova Lhota, administered by the parish priest Štěpán Nevrlý.

Document IV. 22 December 1941, Francova Lhota

František Trochta and Anna Trochtová's marriage certificate, issued by the Roman Catholic parish office in Francova Lhota, administered by the parish priest Štěpán Nevrlý.

Document V. 17 September 1946, Francova Lhota

Štěpán Trochta's certificate of domicile, issued by the municipality of Francova Lhota and signed by council member František Šulák and the Chairman of the Local National Committee Jan Kabrhel.

Document VI. 27 September 1947, Castel Gandolfo

Papal credentials addressed to Štěpán Trochta, which were the basis for his appointment as the Bishop of Litoměřice, issued by the Roman Curia, signed on behalf of the Apostolic See by Arturo Mazzoni and Vincenzo Bianchi Cagliesi, and furnished with the seal of Pope Pius XII with a picture of St. Peter and St. Paul.

A-Ž

► team of authors

This permanent section of the Anthology of the Security Services Archive contains reports, information, commentaries and rarities resulting from the work of archivists.

There will be plenty to keep fun-loving readers happy in this issue. Right at the start of the section, the rules of the Soviet people's game "Gorodky" are outlined. The popularisation of this game was supposed to be aided by Directive No. 47 from the minister of national defence of the Czech Socialist Republic General Alexej Čepička, dated 25 August 1951. If readers are tired of board games like "Ludo", they can try and play a "promotional game for recruiting young people into important professions", which was designed according an improvement plan by a certain prisoner of the Regional Court Jail in Olomouc and characteristically called "Pioneer".

The efforts of the totalitarian regime to have the last word on all human affairs is illustrated by an article on a manual issued by the Regional Directorate of the National Security Corps (SNB) in Hradec Králové in 1981 under the title Instructions for Organising the Funerals of SNB Officers and Composing Eulogies for the Departed.

Furthermore, the section provides readers with information on the past and present of the ABS workplace in Kanice. Information is also provided on the shredding doctrine that prevailed at the ministry of the interior in the 1950s and 60s, as well as on the exhibition entitled The Persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia in the Years 1948–1960.

One interesting feature draws attention to the mutual rivalry that existed between two Czechoslovak army intelligence services – the external Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff and the internal Military Counterintelligence.

For some light relief, notes have been included in this section on dealing with marital difficulties through the Gestapo and on speeches denigrating the "head of state, the Communist Party, and its representatives", which were heard in Brno during the heady days of the first year of the communist regime's existence.

The dramatic situations that can arise during the otherwise peaceful work of archivists are described in an article on an interesting finding in the documentation of the scientific and technical intelligence service from the former 1st Directorate's collection of records.

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