

Summaries

Security Services Archive: Closing the fourth year of activity and visions for the future

► Jana Poddaná

Once Act No. 181/2007 on ISTR and SSA took effect, assets and archival materials were taken over with a great zeal. Importantly, the Archive and Institute managed to commence their activity within the statutory period of time. The negative side of this hectic period is that in terms of operation, the Archive is still not comparable with other public archives. The Archive has struggled with a lack of both working and storage space ever since its inception. The Archive's management has been in constant contact with the Government Dislocation Committee, the Archiving Administration and Filing Service Department of the Ministry of Interior, and other institutions, emphasising its need for suitable premises.

Several major issues had to be resolved early in the year. The most important ones concerned budget stabilisation. The successful move of the Counterintelligence Operative Dossiers and Investigation Files Group from Kobylišy during full operation was definitely a major success.

There is still room for improvement as regards working relations and collegiality. A sensitive approach is required particularly when addressing the relations between the two institutions which share one building, one budget, and are intertwined in fulfilling their obligations. The Archive aims to stabilise the SSA's position within the archive network, improve the perception of the SSA by the general public, and build good relations and collegiality with its partners. We also want to pay attention to practical international cooperation with archives of a similar concept. The Archive's task is to strengthen its own identity.

A difficult year for the Archive lies ahead. The Archive has to finalise its re-dislocation, complete the entries in the National Heritage Archive records, and start the general inventory announced for all archives in the Czech Republic. In addition, the Archive has objectives of its own. These include a major reduction of the time needed for processing researchers' requests, successful involvement in meeting the requirements arising from the Act on the Participants in Anti-communist Resistance, assistance in explaining the past to students, and presentation of the Archive's activity to the public. And we set ourselves one more task: To free the Security Services Archive from a veil of mystery and let the general public perceive it as a standard archive institution – which is how it should rightly be perceived.

The Borderland will be Czech! The activities of Plzeň's Revolutionary Guards in the western borderland in May and June 1945

► Ondřej Sladký

The study focuses on the activities of the Plzeň-based revolutionary units (guards) in May and June 1945 in the western borderland of the Czechoslovak Republic. These forces were sent to the western borderland of Bohemia by the Revolutionary Guard Headquarters in Plzeň to perform tasks associated with the security of persons, protection of state property and protection from persons unreliable from the state point of view. In introduction, the reader gets to learn about the formation and operation of the Revolutionary Guard (RG) on the territory of the western Bohemian city of Plzeň. The next chapter tries to map the activity of the individual forces in the western borderland while illustrating the highly varied political structure of the individual teams, which led to varying attitudes towards the US military administration. The most extensive part is a detailed "slice of life" of a guard unit – a troop that operated in the Aš area together with the finance guard and gendarmerie. This part should give the reader an idea of the everyday life of a revolutionary guardian in the borderland. The article is very interesting thanks to an extensive amount of photographs that provide a vivid illustration of the historical era.

Card index for "Project 48" and evaluation of the so-called anti-state activities of the members of the Roman Catholic Church in selected so-called illegal groups

► Petra Gabrielová

The investigation file collection is still one of the unprocessed collections at the SSA. Access to specific dossiers of interest to researchers is only possible through nominal records of the former StB. Themed literature searches are highly time-consuming and only possible on the basis of specialised knowledge (of persons and the relevant environment) of the person conducting the search. The lack of good quality material records on investigation files and a database enabling access to such files on the basis of themed captions is an obstacle not only to current researchers. The former StB staff faced a similar problem.

Since the 1950s, the staff of the I. Special Directorate of the MI also did various searches and evaluated archival materials, which resulted in a number of card indices and statistical, themed, and material record systems. The results of their work served the other security service units as a source of information for more thorough surveillance of persons unwelcome to the regime and also as the justification of the state security persecution of such persons whom the communist justice viewed as enemies

once and for all. These aspects may have played a role in the formation of the card index for “Project 48”, created between 1965 and 1968 and intended to provide overview of the “illegal” groups subjected to trials at the turn of the 1940s and 1950s, as well as providing better material and themed access to investigation files.

The nominal table attached to the study contains a list of selected “illegal” groups, which pertains to the Roman Catholic Church. Listed for each group are the former evaluation captions of StB staff as well as new captions, which served the author as a criterion for selecting the “anti-state” groups and will further provide the current researchers a certain type of categorisation. The categorisation shows how the Roman Catholic Church ensured the possibilities for its further activity within the confined environment of the totalitarian regime and what methods and means, intrinsic to it or not directly conflicting with its principles, it used to protect its members and their activities.

**Project TRANSLATOR (akce PŘEKLADATEL)
– the case of secret collaborator MALÍNSKÝ.
One of the forms of cooperation between the KGB and StB
in penetrating the Russian émigrés’ organisation, NTS**

► **Jan Kalous**

The article describes one of the specific forms of cooperation between the Czechoslovak State Security (“StB”) and the Soviet KGB. It consisted in penetrating the Russian émigrés’ organisation known as Natsionalno-trudovoy soyuz (“NTS” – National Labour Union; also referred to as the National Workers’ Association or People’s Labour Association) – a social-democratic movement of Russian émigrés.

The NTS was formed in Belgrade in 1930 and its branches were spread in western Europe, with headquarters in Frankfurt. For the StB, this was a form of cooperation that was interesting in connection with the ties to Czechoslovak exiles and Radio Free Europe. The study illustrates the cooperation between the StB and KGB using the example of Project TRANSLATOR, focused on penetrating NTS headquarters and obtaining a wealth of information on the organisation’s leaders. The activities of secret collaborator Mikhail Nikolaevich Okunev-MALÍNSKÝ (1919–1977) portray the system of the StB-KGB cooperation in the period (the paper focuses primarily on the 1970s and 80s). They illustrate the substance of the long-term focus and goals that the StB and KGB pursued by focusing on NTS.

“Everything has been devised, fabricated and combined by me...”

A confrontation between the depositions of an StB agent in prison and the memories of a witness, or several questions regarding the story of name B.

► **Martin Tichý**

The use of StB agents in detention, prisons and forced labour camps was subject to the directives of the Ministry of Interior (“MI”) and/or National Security. The individual cases of agents employed differ depending on the period circumstances.

The case under review attempts to explain the deployment of agent Arnošt Boček who accused co-prisoners Miloš Pecka and Miloslav Krejza of espionage, trafficking of uranium ore samples, and preparation of escape from the forced labour camp. His accusations were investigated by the Regional Directorate of the MI in Prague and proved false. Eventually, the informer himself – agent Arnošt Boček – was sentenced. The question why he accused his co-prisoners can be answered as follows: The accused Pecka and Krejza probably were to be punished for their participation in a strike and hunger strike at the Bytíz forced labour camp. The accusation, which Boček presented as his own finding, was probably prepared in a targeted manner by the Bytíz camp headquarters. However, this possible connection is not documented in archival materials courtesy of StB. Without an additional personal account of a witness – Mr Miloslav Krejza, whom the author located in 2010 – the case could not have been reconstructed with this degree of probability.

Further investigation showed that Arnošt Boček had operated as an StB agent in prisons at least since 1949, and until the latter half of the 1950s. His job was to submit reports as well as sign – probably pre-fabricated – protocols regarding various persons investigated by the StB. Gradually, however, agent Boček lost his credit for both StB’s governing authorities and other prisoners, becoming an unreliable person for them. The study sets the entire story in the period context, which determined it.

Structure of the Intelligence Directorate/General Staff in 1989

► **Radek Fencel**

The paper focuses on the structure of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff in 1989. It shows what the communist intelligence service looked like in the last year of its existence. It describes and illustrates in tables the structure of the individual departments and groups, and their respective structures. It depicts the individual areas of interest as well as the system of international residents and their direction from the headquarters.

The last dead person killed by the military protection of the state border

► Pavel Vaněk

The article focuses on the attempt to cross the Czechoslovak border at the Strážný border crossing in May 1989, which resulted in the last death of a refugee in the period from 1948 to 1989. The victim was an eleven-year-old boy from the German Democratic Republic (GDR), who was in a group with his mother, three siblings and two men trying to cross the border by driving underneath the border gate. The sources used were the results of the investigation of the Office for the Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism regarding the persons who died while attempting to cross the state border during the period. It shows that while the number of victims decreased significantly in the mid-1960s as a result of disconnecting the wire barriers from high voltage, people still died on the border. From the latter half of the 1960s onwards, the percentage of GDR citizens among the victims grew gradually, as they attempted to reach West Germany or Austria through the Czechoslovak territory, until it exceeded the number of Czechoslovak and Polish citizens in the late 1980s. The text focuses on the course of the attempt and points out that the refugees lacked information regarding the state border measures and that they were limited by having four children on board. They were not even sure which border crossing to use in their attempt. The case is made even more tragic by the fact that, since the summer of 1989, GDR citizens had used another possibility to flee to the West – via Hungary.

Demonstrations in 1989 as seen by the VB and Polish inspiration for PP VB ČR

► Josef Vávra

The article focuses on the evaluation of the demonstrations (between January and November 1989) and the raids against them from the viewpoint of the Public Security (“VB”) forces and units. It offers a peek behind the scenes at the preparations and the course of the raids. The study’s central focus is the demonstrations organised in Prague, since the regime considered them to be of key importance and they were also attended by the highest numbers of people. Until the November events, VB forces clashed with the protesters in Prague nine times, specifically during the Palach Week (15 to 22 January), the Labour Day (1 May), the anniversary of the “international aid” (21 August), St. Wenceslas Day (28 September), and the anniversary of Czechoslovakia’s foundation (28 October).

Even though the demonstrations were dispersed and VB’s raids rated as successful, they exhibited insufficient preparation and a lack of experience of the squads when facing large assemblies. The poor coordination of police forces improved after the joint commander meetings held in the summer of 1989, and changes were also prepared

in terms of standards providing for the conditions and possibilities for the raids of the VB Flying Squad (“PP VB”), pursued by the squad leader since February 1989. Tactics were also supposed to improve as a result of the application of the “Materials to Aid in Organising and Executing Tasks towards Restoring Disturbed Public Order” courtesy of Poland’s Komenda głównej milicje obywatelskiej, which resulted from the experience with raids during the period of martial law in Poland between 1980 and 1982. The handbook had been imported in early 1989 and some of the tactical variants described in it became part of the tuition of the PP VB.

The demonstrations in November 1989 and the subsequent fall of the regime drew a line after all efforts and the issue was subsequently approached under completely different conditions.

“Socialism is primarily record-keeping.” Changes in the registration, keeping and archiving of agency/operative dossiers, 1958–1962

► Pavel Žáček

The activities of the MI security forces underwent major changes in the late 1950s, especially the StB; this was also reflected in the organisation of the agency-operative office work. Having evaluated the experience from the previous period, the new service policy, A-oper-II-1 of December 1957, clarified the typology of dossier agenda (collaborator’s personal dossier, record dossier, personal operational dossier, group operational dossier, agency-investigation dossier, object dossier, material operational dossier, control and investigation dossier) including report maps and questionnaires of persons on record.

Given the increase in the number of the agency-operational dossiers, the approval nomenclature of the individual MI officials was modified (from department heads to deputies and the Minister of Interior), screening and keeping records on “persons of interest” in the operational records, and handling of dossiers.

Another modification of October 1959 slightly altered the previous standard, but it principally confirmed the attempts of the top MI officials at centralising the registration, record keeping, and archiving of the agency-operational agenda, thus enabling the I. Special Department of the MI and its regional offshoots a more efficient use against the class enemy and control of the society.

In a way, those changes presaged another major modification of the agency-operational administration, which was implemented after the fall of Minister of Interior Rudolf Barák in 1962.

Main ŠtB Directorate in Slovakia between 1969 and 1974

► Jerguš Sivoš

The Slovak researcher's study focuses on the formation, staffing, organisational changes, gradual centralisation of state security forces, and the termination (transformation into the XII. Directorate of the FMV) of ŠtB's central body in Slovakia between 1969 and 1974.

The unit was in formation from the autumn of 1968, led by Ján Pobeha. Its name – the Main Directorate of State Security of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Socialist Republic (HS ŠtB SSR), expressing its position and authority and relation to the Slovak interior sector – was approved in 1969. As the central security service of MV SSR, HS ŠtB SSR was the directing, controlling, coordination and (in specified areas) executive unit with competence on the territory of the SSR. It directed ŠtB's directorates in Slovakia residing with the regional ZNB directorates and defined the chief direction and focus of their work regarding the various topics. It submitted reports and information on its activities to the Central Committee of the Communist Party (ÚV KSS) and the Government of the SSR.

The attempts at re-centralising security services led to gradual changes in HS ŠtB SSR's position, job description, name etc. Following measures adopted in the middle and at the end of 1970, the Federal Ministry of Interior assumed the direction of all ŠtB units. The discussion on the final form of the top Slovak ŠtB unit took four more years. The HS ŠtB SSR ceased to exist as part of the restructuring of counterintelligence units in mid-1974 when it was replaced by the Counterintelligence Directorate in Bratislava.

Research and evaluation of the research into the physical condition of the investigation files in the case of Milada HORÁKOVÁ et al., also known as "Project CENTRE" (akce STŘED)

► Martin Kostlán, Michal Šrůtek

Comprehensive research into the investigation files in the case of Milada HORÁKOVÁ et al., also known as "akce STŘED", took place as part of the activity of the Department for the Physical Care of Archival Materials in the Security Services Archive (also referred to as "SSA") in the first half of 2010. The files form part of the SSA collection, V-6301 MV. The goal of the research was to establish the maximum possible amount of information required for restoration and conservation. The archival materials are mostly typed documents, complemented by handwritten documents, photographs, letters, copies etc. bearing stamps, signatures, remarks and various types of highlights. Almost every file is a convolute of gradually arising investigations, interrogations,

house search results, arrest reports, sentence durations etc. The gradual formation of the files has resulted in a varied structure in terms of materials. The most important aspect from the restoration point of view – i.e. with a view to preserving the physical condition of the archival material – is the condition of the writing media – paper, cartons, boards etc.; i.e., the information media.

All archival files exhibit a high degree of chemical degradation caused by the material they consist of and the production process. Mechanical degradation is multiply individualised. Damage caused by unsuitable restoration is a specific type of damage. Given the assumption that the digitised items will not be handled subsequently (for the most part, since researchers will be offered digital copies), the principal task for the future is to address the chemical degradation – by means of storing the materials in non-acidic archive boxes, preferably in the horizontal position in clean and dust-free depots with adequate climate and cleaning. Aside from the storage, it is necessary to neutralise the paper of the archival materials. This needs to be done so that the paper is provided with a sufficient alkaline reserve for decades ahead. The amount of the archival material managed suggests it could be suitable to use the mass de-acidification method employing the Neschen C 500 technology, which the SSA owns and operates. The suitable methods of digitisation, neutralisation, restoration, and storage can, if combined, ensure the maximum lasting protection of archival materials.

A form for the researchers was prepared for the purposes of research, archiving, and the subsequent restoration; it was gradually detailed as the research progressed; and the article is a guide to the form. It was structured so as to enable easy navigation and simple recording. It should cover a broad range of archival materials that the authors encountered at the various sites during the research and discussed with the SSA archive specialists. Hence, the form is tailored to the collections of the SSA.

Cooperation of the Security Services Archive with Hungary's Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (Állambiztonsági Szolgálatok Történeti Levéltára) between 2008 and 2010F

► **Miroslav Urbánek, Martin Kostlán, Michal Šrůtek**

The article briefly describes the events that the staff of both partner institutions has taken part in to date. The authors cover SSA employees' business stay at the Historical Archives of the State Security (ÁBTL) in Budapest between 5 and 6 November 2009. The chief purpose of the business trip was a visit to the specialised mass de-acidification worksite. The site uses the Neschen C 900 process, and hands-on experience and observations connected with the equipment's operation and efficiency was shared. The authors also mention a business trip of ÁBTL representatives to the SSA on 24 February 2010. The last project to date that the article's authors cover is the international conference "Mass De-acidification of Archival Records–Experience in

Applying the Bückeberg Method in State Security Archives”, organised by Hungary’s ÁBTL in Budapest on 23 September 2010. The topics discussed included the assessment of the various institutions’ experience with the application of the Bückeberg mass de-acidification method, gained by their in-house conservation and restoration laboratories to date. Our restorers introduced the method of mass de-acidification of archival records as used at the SSA restoration and conservation sites.

Archive of Radio Vaticana’s Czech broadcast

► Pavel Kugler

The article covers the business trip of SSA and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (“ÚSTR”) employees to the archive of Radio Vaticana’s Czech department, which took place between 7 and 20 April 2011. The chief purpose was to map the transcripts of the Czech radio broadcasts from 1950 to 1989 stored there and to examine the possibility of using them for an edition in preparation. The documents are a valuable source of information for researchers since they view the communist Czechoslovakia from the viewpoint of one of the émigrés’ hubs. In addition to the storage, physical condition, organisation, and future of the Vatican archival materials, the article also covers the formation of RaV and its Czech department as well as the editors who participated in the broadcasts. Last but not least, the article reminds the continued discussions between the parties, based on which the SSA and ÚSTR will obtain digital copies of the documents for their purposes.

Seminar “State Border Protection 1948–1955.

The 60th anniversary of the military guarding of the state border”

► Pavel Vaněk

This seminar was held by the Technical Museum in Brno in cooperation with SSA between 17 and 19 May 2011. The papers were grouped into four blocks based on their topics. The first block focused on the system of guarding the state border and couriers’ crossings. The second focused on the relationships between the border protection and the Border Guard and the activities of other security services and the ČSLA. The third range of topics was the exhibition and educational activities in this field, and the fourth focused on the borderland citizens and their life under the conditions of border guarding. Photographs from the seminar are available on the SSA website.

Report on the participation of SSA representatives in an archive field trip

► **Jana Barbora Slaběňáková**

The department is closed with a report on the participation of SSA representatives in an archive field trip organised by the Czech Archive Society between 6 and 8 October 2010 under the title “Pilgrimage of (not only) Bata’s towns”. The organisers set themselves the goal of visiting primarily the places associated with the activities of Bata the company in Moravia and Slovakia (visits to the buildings of archives, depositories, libraries, and research rooms, and conversations with witnesses and colleagues from various worksites in the country etc.).

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► **Collective of authors**

The regular department at the end of the Anthology contains news, information, glosses and “pearls” that archive workers come across during their work. In this issue, readers will find, among other articles, the **Aspects of Everyday Life at the I. Directorate of SNB** (the intelligence headquarters) during the communist regime where drinking at work became so heavy that the heads of the directorate had to address the issue. This is illustrated by the great number of their orders wherein the officials tried to beat demon alcohol, describing it as one of the chief problems limiting the efficiency of the intelligence officers. To no avail.

What material is this?! Researchers sometimes ask themselves this question when working on difficult cases, when a long search results in finding a piece of information that is interesting yet totally insufficient. For example, one finds a mention of an interesting case of border crossing, but alas, in addition to a very brief description, the source only specifies the year of the event, which is of little help for further search. The archive worker describes one such case where the road to discovery was long and difficult. And they say that working with 20th century documents is very easy – just “take it and copy it”!

Limits of družba. Družba, or socialising in the form of deepening contacts between young people and the Czechoslovak People’s Army (“ČSLA”), was a common and encouraged activity during the communist era in Czechoslovakia. It was also one of the regime’s ways to show young people the “bright side of the military”, aiming to encourage the future draftees’ interest in the military topics. The SSA collections show us, though, that the course of the field trip had actually led the Military Counterintelligence (“VKR”) to start a file in the ‘person under verification’ category with the ÚNIK (“Leak”) cover title, regarding two officers of the military unit who guided the visiting trainees.

Disinformation gone wrong. The tension between the two cold war rival superpowers of the era, the US and the USSR, escalated significantly in the early 1980s. For propaganda reasons, the communist regime only publicised the general intention for placing Soviet missiles on the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Any details were top secret. This also showed within the military itself, as certain officers, for the sake of confidentiality, tried to deny the obvious through disinformation. That such attempts were not necessarily successful at all times is illustrated by the deposition made by Capt. Michal B. for the record of the District VKR of the 8684 Hranice unit on 26 October 1986.

Character reference on Comrade H. The personal files of the Ministry of Interior employees often include, aside from many other documents, character reference documents evaluating the person's political and professional traits. Generally, it can be said that some of those documents dating back to the late 1940s and the 1950s tend to be quite lengthy, resembling exercises in style. The article focuses on a specific example of such evaluation documents from 1953 which describes a certain regional archive employee. Reading documents of this type makes most of us smile today, but when you think about it, such character references are timeless in a way, aren't they?