

SOKOLSKÝ VĚSTNÍK



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CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE DAY

OCTOBER 28, 1918



Liberty
For All

The month of October is a traditional month at which time we celebrate the Independence of Czechoslovakia. This month will be the 55th Anniversary of the new state.

On October 28, 1918 a new Republic was born in a land that had been under the rule of autocrats for 300 years. The name - Czechoslovakia - which appeared in newspapers and on maps, was an unfamiliar one. So were many of the other names of new states and regimes that were formed out of the Empires that had outlived their usefulness and stubbornly refused to change to the new ideas. The beginning of an historic period, bent on self-determination, a revival of the spirit that had created the United States of America and in Europe, the French Revolution, was here. Once that flame was ignited, it would not be permanently extinguished.

The leader, Masaryk, who organized and led the last great charge on the bastions of a decadent monarchy was a philosopher. He was a man of the people, Washington and Lincoln in one personality. By his own efforts, through a long hard life of working, learning, studying, thinking, and teaching thousands of eager young minds, he became the greatest human of his time.

Masaryk's army within and without the borders of his country was an army of volunteers; an army of citizens in whose hearts and soles burned the longing for freedom. They fought hard and died. Many of them served under the flags of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada, but all of them, without exception, were serving voluntarily with the same spirit and for the same ideals that guided the legions of Masaryk.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA



STILL OCCUPIED!

CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE DAY * con't.

This same land; these same people, after twenty fruitfull years of Democratic Rule, was invaded by the forces of Nazism. The flower of Czechoslovakia's manhood and womanhood was exterminated by as ruthless a force as had ever overran its territory in its entire history. After Nazism Czechoslovakia was given a few short years of recovery, then the forces of another philosophy as foreign to its national character as Nazism again put Czechoslovakia into bondage.

What, then, do we have to look forward to? Will the peace, prosperity, humanity, and decency of Masaryk's Republic ever return? As dark as the picture may look, we believe in the future. Our problems are no greater than those that faced humanity in the past. Throughout recorded history every setback has set the stage for new advances of mankind.

We have, in spite of everything that has happened, a just reason to be proud! When we established a nation that was such a glaring contrast to anything Europe had ever seen in such a short period, we showed the world our ability and national character. Europe, its politicians, and systems were not ready for what they saw in Czechoslovakia and what we have here in the United States - Democracy and Freedom.

Let us hope they learn before it is too late!

Jan Kucera
Educational Director

--- MARK THE DATES ---

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCTOBER 27 - CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE
DINNER * DANCE * PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 12 - SOKOL MEETING
DECEMBER 8 - DANCE
DECEMBER 10 - SOKOL MEETING - ANNUAL
MEETING - ELECTION OF
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.
DECEMBER 16 - ANNUAL CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY AND
PROGRAM

* * * * *

SOKOL IN REVIEW



Did you know?

That the first American Sokol was founded in 1865 in St. Louis, Missouri.

That San Francisco Sokol Unit was founded on August 22, 1904.

That our first President was Frank Iustufka, and our first Nacelnik J. Machlach.

That Sokol symbolizes a legendary hero, courageous, brave, and ideal man.

That Tyrs was inspired for the founding of Sokol by the Ancient Greek civilization.

That the President's Physical Fitness Program encourages Sokol's type of system.

BOOKS TO READ

In the Shadow of Tyranny by Peter Vlčko, a former lieutenant colonel in the Czechoslovak army, cover the years of World War II, the Slovak National Uprising in 1944, and the Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia. It is a massive readable novel based on the experiences of the author, a reliable record of events in which he participated. The novel is a work of love and devotion to the cause of Czechoslovakia and to freedom. So many events have been discolored and misinterpreted as for instance the Slovak National Uprising, — strangely by both the Communists and the Slovak Separatists — that the author felt duty bound to put down in writing his experiences and belief. The main figures are well chosen to describe the problems of the people, their conflicts as patriots, under Nazi rule and later under the Communists.

Americans who would like to know what it was like to live in Czechoslovakia during the war, to retain one's ideals and yet survive, will learn much from Peter Vlčko's book. (Vantage Press, Inc. 516 West 34th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; pp. 860, price \$8.95).

Br. Petr Vlčko je členem Sokola Detroit / Mich. / Jako podplukovník československé armády prožil nacistickou okupaci, život ve Svobodném Slovenském Státě, slovenské povstání, osvobození, komunistické intriky do roku 1948. Je Slovákem, ale dobrým Čechoslovákem, který zůstal věrným odkazu Prezidenta Masaryka. — Když před 25 roky prchal z Československa, u hraničního kamene v jižních Čechách učinil slib, že uveřejní svědectví o tragedii Československa. —

Pokračování na st. 4.

They were accused of "clandestine meetings with foreigners" and because they were so candid and cooperative in admitting their guilt, their six year prison sentence was reduced to three years. Then at Moscow's Journalists Club, Western newsmen listened to Yakir and Krasin admit that they had been "terribly wrong in criticizing the state" and that "the trial had been fair and objective."

IN DEFENSE OF SAKHAROV

Officially, the U.S. government takes the line that what happens to Russian dissidents is an internal affair and should not impede our efforts in working toward improved relations with the Soviet Union. Secretary Henry Kissinger, pressed for an answer at Senate hearings before his confirmation said as much. For diplomatic reasons, there probably was little else he could say in public. Should the United States government adhere to this policy, however, hope for genuine improvement and reciprocal treatment would die a quick death because of our permissiveness and weakness.

Fortunately, there is much the United States can do unofficially and the U.S. Academy of Science, in its defense of Sakharov, has shown the way of dealing with the Soviets. A nongovernmental organization, the Academy has been charged with carrying out the U.S. side of scientific exchange with the Soviet Union; in April it elected Sakharov a foreign associate member.

The Academy has joined an international campaign of support for Sakharov, and cabled a warning from Washington to Dr. Mstislav Keldysh, president of the Soviet Academy: "Were Sakharov to be deprived of his opportunity to serve the Soviet people and humanity, it would be extremely difficult to imagine successful fulfillment of American pledges of binational scientific cooperation" (Chicago Tribune, September 10, 1973). It would be calamitous indeed if the spirit of détente were to be damaged by any further action taken against this gifted physicist who has contributed so much to the military security of the Soviet people and who now offers his wisdom and insight to that people and to the entire world in the interest of a better tomorrow for all mankind."

THE CLIMATE IN THE KREMLIN

Sakharov's friend Vladimir Maximov, expelled from the Soviet Writers Union for defending the scientist, has been summoned by Soviet officials for a psychiatric examination. So far, he has refused to comply. In London, Russian scientist Zhores Medvedev, who has been stripped of his citizenship while working in Britain, is appealing to all western scientists who have honorary membership in the Soviet Academy of Sciences to condemn the official campaign to expel Sakharov. Already there was in full swing the usual organized campaign to discredit the victim and letters-on-command from Soviet scientists, composers, doctors, engineers, workers and peasants were pouring in condemning Sakharov and others. Temporarily, there is a lull and the campaign seems to have been called off for the time being, as the Kremlin weighs the pros and cons of the situation in view of the forthcoming Conference on European Security and Cooperation.

PSYCHIATRY AS SERVANT TO COMMUNIST PRACTICES

It has long been a practice of Moscow rulers to make use of the psychiatric profession to subdue men of unbroken spirit. It is a more sinister way of disposing of troublesome citizens than sending them to a Siberian labor camp. Testimonies of Soviet mathematician Dr. Alex Yesenin-Volpin, Constantin Boldyreff and others, including background information on psychiatric hospitalization and treatment in insane asylums, and the evidence of a number of prominent Soviet citizens were recorded in hearings before the U.S. Senate on the Judiciary and are now available under the title "Abuse of Psychiatry for Political Repression in the Soviet Union," published by the U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

"The document contains a list of the psychiatric clinics so far located; their principal operators, drugs used and finally another index of names, places and institutions some fourteen pages long, which testify to the depth of our knowledge of the gigantic crime committed on our doorstep" (Josten FCI, London).

At the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Honolulu, a Czech psychiatrist, a defector from behind the Iron Curtain, testified that in Czechoslovakia psychiatrists also had to follow instructions, that reluctance to act against the ethics of the profession could result in loss of employment. "The Czech psychiatrist decided to leave his country because he was required to dispatch to mental hospitals persons who, according to his judgment, were mentally sound. As soon as his personal safety was assured, he made a statement to this effect and sent it to the Czechoslovak government in order to explain the reason of his defection. He was not alone in being forced into such a position and he knew several Eastern European psychiatrists who acted in a similar way (Josten, FCI, London, July 4, 1973).

"DARKNESS AT NOON IN CZECH PRISON"

Under this title the London Times reported on the complaint sent earlier in the year by Jiří (George) Mueller, president of the University Students Federation, to the Czechoslovak parliament. The prisoner's charges were finally smuggled out of the country and published in London on August 6, and also by other French and German newspapers (Hlas Domova, Melbourne, Australia, August 20, 1973).

In 1964, Jiří Mueller was expelled from the university for his criticism of President Novotny's regime. In the brief Spring thaw in 1968, he was permitted to resume his studies and take part in public life. In November, 1971, he was arrested for participating allegedly in pre-election activities; eight months later, he was sentenced to five-and-half years.

In his complaint, prisoner Mueller criticizes conditions in prison Na Borech in Plzeň (Pilsen), where political prisoners fare much worse than any other inmate; they are being punished for refusing to inform on other political participants. Mueller is locked by day and night in a cell with two to four other prisoners in Block 5, which also serves as the prisoners workshop by day. Windows are never opened and air is foul. When he became seriously ill, he was placed in solitary confinement, instead of the infirmary. His eyesight is failing and he is suffering from gallstones. Although Dr. Chvojka prescribed treatment, his recommendation was turned down by his superior, Dr. Sadilek. Since January of this year, political prisoners are not allowed any books, not even textbooks on foreign languages. His request for communication with legal counsel was denied.

VICTORY FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE

Senators J. W. Fulbright, Stuart Symington and a few other were in the minority in their opposition to continued Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty broadcasting behind Iron Curtain. The majority of senators disagreed with the view of Senator Symington who argued that "we cannot obtain better relationship with a country by attacking their government and the people who are running that government."

The shoe is on the other foot, Senator. It is Moscow and its satellites that attack furiously the United States, distort world news and spend more money jamming U.S. broadcasts than we do for broadcasting.

Fortunately, the authorization bill for the radios, sponsored by Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois, passed the Senate on September 7 by the overwhelming vote of 76 to 10. As Senator Percy explained, "The Communist nations broadcast about 450 hours of propaganda to North America every week. On a worldwide basis, international broadcasting by the Communist countries amounts to nearly 7,000 hours a week."

Human Rights - Theory and Practice in Czechoslovakia

COMMENTS

on

THE VIOLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF THE "UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS"

as proclaimed by the United Nations on December 19, 1948, solemnly
accepted by the Communist regime of Czechoslovakia
and "guaranteed" in its Constitution

* * *

Article 1 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity.

In Czechoslovakia this humanistic principle exists only on paper. In practice, the future of children is governed by a pure apartheid. Children of ordinary citizens are not equal to those born to members of the Communist Party.

Article 2 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth or other status.

Freedoms of opinion, expression, religion and assembly, revived during the Prague Spring 1968, were abolished following the Soviet-led invasion of August 1968.

Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

There are no exact figures available to us of political arrests made after the invasion of Czechoslovakia; however, according to underground sources about 10,000 persons were arrested for political reasons in violation of article 3.

Article 4 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery is prohibited in all its forms.

In Czechoslovakia even a mild criticism of the Party regime may result in the loss of employment or relocation to a menial job. This places the great majority of the population in a condition of servitude to the regime. The whole country is held in slavery by the occupation forces of the Soviet Union.

Article 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The cruel and inhuman treatment of those opposing communism has been well documented in many books and articles. We are enclosing documentation on the treatment of Ludek Pachman (Exhibit 8) as told by himself as well as other supporting evidence.

Article 6 Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

True, but in Czechoslovakia the Communist Party is the accuser, the judge and the jury. Included in the exhibits are reports on political trials and purges.

Articles 7 & 8 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. There is ample documentation to prove the lie.

Article 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

In violation of this article arbitrary arrests and detentions are practiced throughout Czechoslovakia. Some of those arrested have been handed over to the Soviet NKVD and exiled to Siberia. However, as far as exile to a Western country is concerned, the regime strictly complies with Article 9. Too many citizens would volunteer for such "punishment."

Articles 10 & 11 Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal and everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

In Czechoslovakia the political doctrine and instructions of the Communist Party are above the law. Judges must interpret the law to suit the purposes of the Party.

Article 12 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence or reputation.

Censorship of mail to and from foreign countries, mainly western democracies, and the tapping of telephones, has been reintroduced in Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion and occupation of the country. A full confession must be submitted by all applicants for employment, higher education, passports, etc. The questionnaire must list all activities, details on family life, friendships, any contacts with foreigners, religious and political opinions, etc.

Article 13 Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state; everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

In Czechoslovakia the right to freedom of movement within the country is restricted. The right to emigrate is denied to those of "working age" and to those subject to military duty. Permission to emigrate was granted in some instances to pensioners who were forced to forfeit their pension as a price for emigration. The right to visit friends or relatives in a western country is strictly limited, mostly to older persons. Visits of relatives who fled Czechoslovakia after the Soviet-led invasion of 1968 are now forbidden. By this decision the regime wants to force a greater number of exiles to return to Czechoslovakia under the 1973 amnesty law. The Czechoslovak government thus arbitrarily decides for the people concerned where they should live. It made no provision for the reunification of families in the country of their choice.

(To be continued)