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The Mid-European Law Project

- I. History of the Project: The project was begun in the summer of 1949 under the auspices of the National Committee of Free Europe. Its director is the Foreign Law Librarian of the Library of Congress, Dr. Vladimir Geevski.
- II. Scope of the Project: The purposes of the Law Project are:
 - A. To have available in one place a complete collection of all legislation and administrative decrees passed since the communists took over in each of the countries included in the project;
 - B. To prepare and keep current an index to this material;
 - C. To digest and publish short reports on those laws which are of major interest; and
 - D. To perform large-scale research projects based on legal sources.
- III. Report of Progress: Following are excerpts from the annual report for 1952-1953 of the Foreign Law Section, Law Library, Library of Congress on the Mid-European Law Project.
 - A. General: The activities of the Mid-European Law Project, inasmuch as they can be separated from the activities of the Foreign Law Section of the Library, were concentrated on large reports intended for publication. The main targets were:
 - Economic Treaties and Agreements (completed)
 - Church and State (in galley proof)
 - Nationality Laws Behind the Iron Curtain (manuscript completed)
 - Bibliography of Legal Sources (manuscript almost completed)
 - Monthly Reports (Highlights)

Other topics tentatively selected for research are:

 - Confiscatory Laws and Decrees (nationalization of property)
 - Agricultural Laws (collectivization of farming) and Labor Law
 - Administration of Criminal Justice

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- B. The following reports are listed as having been released during the period covered by the reports:

1. Reports Covering Several Countries

- a. Legislation on Expectant Mothers and Childcare: Bulgaria, 2 p.; Czechoslovakia, 9 p.; Hungary, 9 p.; Poland, 7 p.; Rumania, 3 p.;
- b. Cartels: Bulgaria, 1 p.; Czechoslovakia, 1 p.; Poland 1 p.; Yugoslavia, 1 p.; Hungary, 2 p.;
- c. National Defense and Conscription Laws: Bulgaria, 121 p.; Czechoslovakia, 151 p.; Hungary, 11 p.; Poland, 75 p.; Rumania, 26 p.;
- d. Repression of Terrorism on an International Scale, 2 p.

2. Individual Countries

- a. Bulgaria: Deterioration of the Position of the Small Farmer under the Present Bulgarian Regime, 18 p.; The Legal Position of the American College at Simonsova, near Sofia, during and after World War II, 13 p.; New Regulation on Foreign Exchange Transactions; Alien Property in Bulgaria, 10 p.;
- b. Czechoslovakia: Law of March 19, 1923, No. 50 Coll., on Protection of the Republic, 4 p.; Inheritance Law, 13 p.; Trading in Foreign Exchange, 8 p.; Methods by which a Convicted Person May Be Prematurely Released Under Czechoslovak Law, 8 p.; Adoption, 13 p.; Legal Analysis of the Financial Laws, 10 p.;
- c. Estonia: Direct Personal Taxes in Soviet Estonia, 17 p.;
- d. Hungary: Law on the Regulation of Economic Competition 2 p.; Loss of Citizenship Due to Prolonged Absence Abroad, 3 p.; Hungarian Military Oath, 3 p.;

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- e. Latvia: Citation of Laws concerning Education and Learning, 3 p.; Laws on Riga Exchange, 17 p.; Law Concerns at the Latvian University of Riga, 6 p.; Law concerning Certified Public Accountants, 17 p.;
- f. Poland: Forced Labor in Poland, 7 p.; Deterioration of the Peasant's Position in Poland after World War II, 3 p.; Deprivation of Nationality under Polish Law, 3 p.;
- g. Yugoslavia: 1953 Amendments to the Yugoslav Constitution, 4 p.

c. Unpublished Reports: In addition to the above, many laws were translated and studies were prepared but not published. The report listing these activities is available in [redacted] office, (Extension T66).

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III. Personnel: About 35 people are employed on the project, most of whom are legal analysts paid about \$3,000 a year each. Twenty-four analysts work on the laws of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia (4 on each country). Three analysts (one to each country) analyze the statutes of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

IV. Budget: The estimated budget for Fiscal Year 1955 is as follows:

Personal Services	\$172,279.00
Travel	100.00
Communications	200.00
Other contractual services	1,200.00
Supplies and materials	1,500.00
Equipment	325.00
Total	\$176,104.00

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