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AIR POUCH CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM AMEMBASSY, VIENNA #838

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON November 4, 1952.

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SUBJECT PERIPHERAL: Press Attacks on Radio Free Europe.

The Embassy's despatches Nos. 1502 and 1549 of March 21 and 26, 1952, respectively, reported on the beginning of Ferdinand Durcansky's efforts to attract to the support of the Slovak Liberation Committee (SOV) various elements of the Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans in Austria. Despatch No. 1598 of April 1, 1952, expanded on this subject and reported the apparent success with which Durcansky's efforts were meeting. This despatch likewise gave some details of the support which the Volksdeutsche news organ, Wegwarte, had given SOV in the latter's efforts to undermine the popularity of Radio Free Europe. The Embassy's despatch No. 218 of August 4, 1952, gave additional details of this program of the SOV and reported on the arrival in Austria of Durcansky, who apparently plans to remain here to promote the aims of his organization.

Recently, attacks on Radio Free Europe have appeared in the local press which obviously were of SOV inspiration. The Wegwarte of November 1, 1952, carried a small item which claimed that the RFE station in Munich was harmful to the Czech people and the Sudeten Germans, and that the Federative Committee of Czechoslovaks and Sudeten Germans had decided to demand a change in the station's basic policy, "or else apply to the West German radio for the allocation of a broadcast hour in order to establish as soon as possible their own shortwave station". The article claimed that the Soviets were attempting to "tie the Czechs to Moscow forever" by propagating fear of the Germans among the Czechs, and that RFE was indirectly playing into the hands of the communists "by ignoring and even opposing an understanding between exiled Czechoslovaks and Sudeten Germans". It was probably less by accident than by design that this article appeared in the issue which contained a lead story that the "Neo-Czechoslovakia wants to slaughter the Slovaks". This story referred to a recent meeting of exiled Czechoslovaks in Chicago where, allegedly, "members of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia had propagated a mass murder of Slovaks who reject a Neo-Czechoslovakia and had demanded that adequate measures be taken to provide for the possibility of occupying Slovakia by means of a Czech military force".

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE'S METHOD'S EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

The above stories were preceded by an article in the Salzburger Volksblatt which appeared in the Austrian province of Salzburg on October 21 and 22, 1952. The Suedost Tagespost (People's Daily) of Salzburg, Austria, claimed that RFE had been the "target of fierce criticism for the past few months", and that a recent administrative reorganization of RFE had been nothing but a ruse to beguile the people into believing that steps had been taken to eliminate the alleged subversive forces in RFE's employ. The article went on to state that black marketers were employed by RFE and that such men of ill repute will continue to use RFE for their "anti-German campaign of hatred".

The second of these articles appeared in the Salzburger Volksblatt (Independent) of Salzburg on October 22. This one was prefaced with the remark that although RFE's voice was directed against the East, "the voices that speak into its microphones belong to people who, not only according to German opinion, are unqualified to speak for a 'free Europe'." It ended with the comment that "It is hard to believe what use can be made of American money. That is, for a free Europe, of course." Between the opening and closing remarks the article was identical with the one printed in the Suedost Tagespost.

There is little doubt from the content and timing of these three stories that they are a part of the SOV's campaign to discredit the Czechoslovak department of Radio Free Europe. To recapitulate, one article appeared in the Wegwarte which had gone over to Durcansky's side some time ago, another echoing the established line of the SOV, appeared in an independent newspaper in Salzburg (Durcansky's headquarters), while the third, although it was published in the British Zone of Austria, was identical to the second. The Wegwarte, however, seems to have made the most revealing statement when it stated that the Federative Committee of Czechoslovaks and Sudeten Germans would establish its own radio station if RFE failed to comply with its demands. It will be recalled that despatch No. 1026 of January 9, 1952, reported that SOV propaganda had informed the Slovaks (in Slovakia) that the Durcansky station Voice of the Slovak Republic (believed formerly to have been in Madrid, but probably not connected with the White Legion) would soon be heard again and that the frequencies would be announced at a later date. It is thus possible that, in addition to the SOV's promoting its campaign against RFE's non-Slovak employees and RFE's failure to support Slovak separatism, the SOV hopes to build up a case against Radio Free Europe which will pave the way for obtaining permission from the Bonn government for the establishment of a Slovak separatist propaganda station on West German territory. The contention that RFE is preventing German-Czechoslovak harmony, and the concomitant implication that a SOV-sponsored station can create and maintain a state of happy relationship between Germany and the people of Czechoslovakia, would appear to be useful arguments for obtaining the necessary authorization.

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TRANSLATION

Articles which appeared in the Suedost Telegram of October 21, 1952, and the Salzburger Volksblatt of October 22, 1952.

The privately financed U.S. network Radio Free Europe has been the target of fierce criticism for the past few months. Its anti-Europe Chauvinism was only recently attacked by Czech emigrants and the Sudeten German-Czech Federative Committee headed by Dr. Ludwigman and General Prchala.

Slovak Nationalists representing the majority of exiled Slovaks who request the restoration of an independent Slovak state are barred from Radio Free Europe, just as the Prchala group, which advocates the return of the Sudeten Germans to Czechoslovakia. The sharp criticism provoked by the network's strange propaganda caused the recent dismissals of 25 employees while notorious chief editor Pavel Tigrid resigned.

It has now been learned that this purge was nothing but a dodge. The so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia, consisting of Benes followers, informed its friends from Radio Free Europe by confidential letter that the dismissals in the Czech Department were only a tactical maneuver. Only those persons are to be dismissed who are not in favor of the Council or belong to right-wing Czech parties. While the vacancies are to be filled with loyal Benes followers, Tigrid will be displaced by a Mr. Kohat who will serve as straw boss while Tigrid continues his work for Radio Free Europe.

The fact that seven employees of the Czech Department have been arrested on charges of espionage and several others are in jail because of hard currency rackets explains what kind of shady personalities have been and will use Radio Free Europe for their anti-German campaign of hatred. The host of the program "Greetings To My Home Country" turned out to be a Communist agent after working half a year, and escaped with a file of names of exiled Czechs' relatives still living in Czechoslovakia.

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Vienna

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A copy of the articles which appeared in the Neueste Nachrichten
and the Salzburger Volksblatt is enclosed

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Walter Dowling
Deputy High Commissioner

Enclosure:

1. Copy of articles.

Copies to: Prague, HICOG (Frankfurt PR), HICOG (Lonn),
Amconsulate General Munich, Moscow, Tel Aviv,
Budapest, Bucharest.

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NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS

AV-372

Czechoslovak

November 26, 1952

HAPSBURG INFLUENCES SUSPECTED BEHIND BONN CONFERENCE OF NATIONALITY
GROUPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak New Yorksky Dennik of November 25th reports a few additional details about the conference of emigre nationality groups from Czechoslovakia, held in Bonn on October 10th, and expresses the view that the gathering and the formation of a "Council of the Peoples of Czechoslovakia" on its occasion might be connected with the new campaign for a Central European Federation under Otto of Hapsburg.

The daily describes the new Council as a center for these elements, which in 1939 participated in the disruption of Czechoslovakia. It defines their present program as aiming toward "dismemberment of Czechoslovakia and obstructing the efforts of the exiles for the reconstruction of a democratic Czechoslovak Republic". It lists the members of the new Council as follows: For the Czechs: Gen. L. Prchala, Dr. K. Lecher; for the Slovaks: Matus Cernak and Dr. Ctibor Pokorny; for the Sudeten Germans: Dr. R. Lodgman von Auen, Reitzner and Schmetz, the last two former members of the Prague Parliament; for the Germans of Slovakia: A. Birkner; for the Hungarians: Dr. O. Kazmer, B. Szilassi and Ch. Mokky; for the Ruthenians: I. Nebola.

As analysis of the list shows that both Slovak separatist centers are represented in the Council: Dr. Ctibor Pokorny is the vice president of Durcansky's Slovak Liberation Committee, while Matus Cernak, former member of Tiso's government, is leader of the pro-Sidor Slovaks in Munich. This would confirm previous reports that representatives

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of both rival centers participated in the Bonn meeting, an occurrence without precedent to date. I. Nebola is identified in the daily's report as a member of the Ukrainian Nationalist Guard "Sitch" during the short-lived Carpatho-Ukrainian Republic of 1939.

Concerning the political background of the conference, New Yorksky Dennik observes:

"It is probable that this group receives its political advice as well as financial and other support from the people close to Otto of Hapsburg, the champion of a new Central European Federation scheme. It would seem that during the recent visit of Archduke Otto in Bonn the self-styled organizers of the new 'Council of the Peoples' paid a visit to him and assured him of the loyalty of their 'peoples' to the dynasty of the Hapsburgs."

Archduke Otto's Action Discussed

On November 14th, New Yorksky Dennik published an article by its political commentator, F. C. Majovsky, discussing a lecture delivered recently in Bonn by Archduke Otto at the invitation of German federalists on the issue of the role of Central Europe in federalist plans. The writer points to the "literal repetition of Hitler's terminology" in the wording given by the lecturer to his subject, "European Aspect of the Danube Living Space (Lebensraum)." He also calls attention to the presence among the audience of active members of the East German government, members of the Hohenzollern family, and representatives of German exiles from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, etc.

Concerning the views expressed by the lecturer, the writer quotes the comment of Die Zeit, which called his plea for the inclusion in the European federation plans of the Central European zone up to the Carpathian mountains a repetition of now familiar suggestions, but found interesting his ideas as to how to organize that zone. For this purpose, Die Zeit stated, recommended exploiting the traditional ties

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which have bound the peoples of the Hapsburg Monarchy for a period of a thousand years. He absolved the rest of responsibility for the ill-considered destruction of the Monarchy and put the blame upon Edward Benes and his political friends from Bucharest and Belgrade. He did not mention T. G. Masaryk in this connection, the writer observes, apparently fearing to weaken his position by assailing a leader popular in the democratic world. The writer points to sympathetic reports on the lecture in German and Austrian papers and he predicts that the Hapsburg movement soon will gain strong official and popular support in Germany.

F. C. Majovsky, in his own remarks, dismisses Archduke Otto's conception as a worn-out idea of "ultra-rightist world reaction." Nevertheless, he sees a potential danger in the adoption by the Archduke of the nationality principle as a basis for his Central European plans. In his opinion, this factor may attract not only former fascist elements among the exiles from behind the Iron Curtain but also the "so-called democratic political leaders who had nothing to do with Nazism during the war and were even sometimes persecuted by the Nazis, but, nonetheless, became infected during the Hitler era by the idea of the so-called nationality independence, based upon German Nazi philosophy." Describing these leaders, not Otto of Hapsburg, as the real threat against democracy in Central Europe, he continues:

"There are many of them, hiding today in various exiled representations and unofficial political organizations acting for the countries behind the Iron Curtain. They begin as great democrats and act as champions of the rights of their nationalities to independence. It would be a thing of great interest and of immense importance for future democratic development if proper American government circles would examine from this viewpoint the ideas, conceptions and programs of all organizations and groups coming from behind the Iron Curtain."

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German Attacks Against RFE Draw Comment

The Chicago daily Svornost of November 11th reprints from the Cleveland Novy Svet a review of attacks in West German papers, Rheinischer Merkur and Christ und Welt, against the Czechoslovak division of RFE for beaming allegedly pro-Communist and anti-German propaganda to Czechoslovakia and for employing persons with Communist connections in the past. An article by Richard Sperber, upon which the review was based, appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

In its own comment, Novy Svet takes a stand in defense of Paul Tigrid of the RFE Czechoslovak division, the main target of the German press attacks, declaring that it knows him as a "good Catholic" and an author of numerous strongly anti-Communist articles in exiled publications. It observes:

"If it is true that certain employees of the radio station conducted their anti-Communist propaganda in countries behind the Iron Curtain in a manner which actually aided the Communists, it would be proper to state precisely who is meant in such charges and what he did. It would also be proper to reveal by whom these boys were recommended to RFE and by whom they were placed there, and to draw the necessary consequences of it."

Referring to these remarks in the Chicago separatist Slovak v Amerike, Michal Zibrin points to the Free Czechoslovakia Council as the culprit to be blamed for introducing "Communist collaborators" into the Czechoslovak division of RFE. He voices his indignation over the fact that an article with such a question has been reprinted in the same Svornost whose former editorial co-worker, Dr. Michal Mudry-Sebik, used to be one of the leading RFE officers, responsible for the Czechoslovak division.

Zibrin recalls his previous warnings against pro-Communist influences in the Free Czechoslovakia Council and names as other outstanding

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pro-Communists in it: Prof. Macek, whom he describes as the author of the economic section of the 1948 Constitution of Czechoslovakia, and General Dastich who, "together with another general, was recommended by the Council as an adviser for the American occupation administration in Germany." He asserts that one hundred Czechoslovak university students protested against the admission to a DP camp in Ludwigsburg of Prof. Macek who in 1948 expelled them from their schools, and staged demonstrations against him.

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