

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR DISPATCH NO. EGQW-3781
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1953

TO : Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
Attention: Pullach/C
FROM : Chief, EE

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational
SPECIFIC - Ferdinand DURCANSKY - Name Traces

Ref- EGQW-3710

1. We have the following traces on subject at present and are attempting to determine what specific charges resulted in his being labelled a war criminal.

2. Excerpts from State Department Memo of Conversation, dated July 6, 1950: (Conversation was held in reference to attempted intercession by members of "Slovak v Amerike" in attempt to obtain U. S. visa for DURCANSKY.)

(Slovak v Amerike) suggested that since Karol SIDAK had received a visa many Americans of Slovak descent believed that DURCANSKY should also be issued a visa. They said that this was all the more important in that DURCANSKY was a more forceful leader than SIDAK and had a larger following in Czechoslovakia. * * * * (State Dept.) pointed out that its view was that the two cases were distinguished by important differences. DURCANSKY had been listed as a war criminal by the United Nations War Crimes Commission sitting in London and because of this the Department could not find it possible to recommend the issuance of a visa for entry to the United States if an advisory opinion should be requested by any consular officer abroad to whom DURCANSKY might apply. This had been (State Dept's) view previously when the same question had arisen and * * * * the conclusion was that there was no basis for changing our earlier view. (Slovak v Amerike) asked whether any appeal right

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be made against this decision or the findings of the United Nations War Crimes Commission. (State Dept.) replied that the United Nations War Crimes Commission comprised a number of trained lawyers considered of objective attitude from various nations, including the United States and Great Britain. (State Dept.) had been guided by their findings in many cases and saw no reasons thus far not to accept them in the present instance. It would not, therefore, seem likely that (State Dept's) position would be changed even if the matter were carried higher."

3. On 10 April (52) Victor P. Z. ESTENSSORO, leader of the Bolivian Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) was visited at his apartment in Argentina by delegations of Slovaks, Ukrainians and Croats. The purpose of the visit was to congratulate PAZ --- on the successful revolt carried out by the MNR in Bolivia. The Slovak delegation was headed by Reverend P. MILAN, a Franciscan who spoke on behalf of Ferdinand DURCANSKY.

Along
4. Who's Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe (May 1944): Ferdinand DURCANSKY: Slovak politician, born circa 1906. Son of Senator Juraž DURCANSKY, representative of Slovak People's (Hlinka) Party in Czechoslovakia Senate. As student fervent partisan Slovak-Hungarian Union. Started career as unknown lawyer. Studied Paris and Berlin, where made intimate contacts with Hitler Youth Leaders. On return Czechoslovakia founded monthly Nestap with Nazi aid. First came into prominence Minister of Justice in Slovak autonomous Government, founded October 1938 (after Munich). Later obliged by Czech opposition to flee to Vienna, where he violently attacked Czechoslovak Republic. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs; became Minister of Interior in first independent Slovak Government, 14 March 1939. Suddenly dismissed September 1941. Reported to be on demand of Germans who were playing off the group of Tuka and Mach against that of DURCANSKY. Article in Slovak March 1943, accused Slovaks of inciting anti-Czech feeling.

5. FBI Memo of 19 February 1948: Information available to Bureau from confidential, reliable sources indicates that Vendelin CERNANSKY, a Slovak national, prior to his entry into U. S. was in contact with Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY and the Slovak Action Committee. Source stated that CERNANSKY was urged to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act in the U. S. to act

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upon DURCANSKY's behalf in this country. There is no evidence at the present time that CERVANSKY has in fact acted in this connection in this country.

6. Another report states that Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, ex-Slovak Minister and president of the local branch of the anti-Communist Slovak Action Committee has lost considerable prestige especially among the more recent Slovak arrivals in Argentina. These groups of immigrants are decidedly partisan to the ex-Ambassador of Slovakia to the the Vatican, Dr. Carlos SIDOR, who is at present living the in the U. S.

Two reasons are advanced for this continued split involving the two men. The struggle which has been in evidence for many years has become accentuated because of the vocal support provided Dr. SIDOR by the recent Slovak arrivals to Argentina. Also the outward attachment DURCANSKY has toward the Nazi element and the Peronistas has diminished the once popular influence he had previously exercised.

Another reason given for the shift in favor of SIDOR is the attitude of the former Slovak Minister of War (fnu) STEFANIC (phonetic) who is an enthusiastic supporter of Dr. SIDOR. STEFANIC, at this time, living in Buenos Aires, is looked upon as being pro-American.

DURCANSKY is criticized by the Slovak Community as being selfish and ambitious apart from being a proponent of totalitarian ideology. He is a close friend of Ante PAVELIC, Croat chieftain, and Father Virgilio Filippo, former ecclesiastical aide to President PERON, along with many other Nazi and Fascist collaborators.

Subject is considered to be a man without scruples, violently anti-Semitic and anti-American.

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