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Handwritten notes

Information from Biographic Intelligence Division Files, Department of State, as of September 1954

Name: Durčanský, Ferdinand, Professor, Dr. of Law - Slovak

Born: 18 December 1906 in Rajec, then Pajecz, Hungary, near Zilina, as the son of Juraj D., a follower of Father Andrej Hlinka and active in regional bodies, finally member of the Czechoslovak Senate. According to local gossip in his home town, his real father was a gypsy (German Foreign Office Documents). His ^{elder} younger brother Jan D., born 1902, former notary public in Bratislava, accompanied him to Argentina.

Marital Status: Married, two children.

Religion: Catholic

Languages: Slovak, Czech, Polish, German, French, English

Last Position Held in Native Country: Attorney-at-law in Bratislava, Professor of International Law at the University of Bratislava, owner of the Chemical Factory "Slovenke Alkaloid" in Hlohovec near Bratislava.

Present Residence: Anif Castle near Groedig, Land Salzburg, Austria. (as of 20 June 1953) or Bavaria.

Biographic Resumes: OSS, Who is Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe, May 1944, Secret.

Great Britain Foreign Office Research Dept., The Czechoslovak Emigration, CZE 71/49, 4 Nov 49 and 12 Jan 50, Secret.

State, London, D-1691, 10 Oct 50, with enclosures, Con.

CIA, SO-DB 38403, 7 June 51, with enclosures, Secret.

Chronology:

March 1954: Split reported in Anti-Communist Bloc of Nations (ABN), an international association of rightest politicians, of which Subject is board member.

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- Oct 53: Reported in Vienna.
- June 53: Lecturer on Public Law with the "Slovak-Academy Abroad", which is sponsored by the OSV (Slovak Liberation Committee.)
- 14 Mar 53: Participated in SOV meeting in ~~Munich~~ Munich, Germany.
- Dec 52: Visited Camp Valka near Nurnberg, where he has 30 followers.
- Nov 52: Meeting with General Lev Prchala, leader of a Czech group in London.
- June/
Jul 52: Reported in Linz, Austria. Denied reports that he was expelled from Argentina, possesses Argentine travel document. Took residence in the historic Anif Castle, near Groedig, Land Salzburg.
- 28 May
52: Published article in Slovak v Amerike "Slovak's Who Helped Enslave Slovakia" attacking not only Slovak Democrats, but also Karł Sidor.
- Spring
1952: Wrote open letter to German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, promising the return of the Slovak Germans and prosecution of all responsible for their expulsion.
- May 52: An attempt undertaken among US Slovak ~~xxx~~ separatists, to reconcile Sidor and Durčansky groups, failed.
- 5 Jan
51: Sent a memorandum to US High Commissioner in Frankfurt, suggesting support of revolutionary movements of Soviet minority races.
- 15 Dec
50: Reported in Montreal, Canada.
- 5 Dec 50: R Called at US London Embassy.
- 26 Oct 50: Called at Hicog, Frankfurt.
- 13 Oct 50: Applied for US visa.
- 9 Oct 50: Reported in Geneva, Switzerland, using alias.

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- 14 Sept 50: In London. Previously traveled in Italy, France, Germany and Belgium.
- 13 Jul 50: Member of Executive Committee of the Anti-Communist Bloc of Nations, ABN.
- Aug 1949: Offered to US Embassy in Buenos Aires to turn over information. Probably responsible for the picketing of Nikolas Ferencil at his arrival in New York, 14 Aug 49.
- Jul 1949: Sent memorandum to US Embassy, London and to British Foreign Office, concerning establishment of SOV. Also, later, concerning the Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, a union of fascist emigre groups, established July 11 in Argentina and subsequently suppressed by the Argentinian Government.
- 12 Mar 49: The Slovak Akcny Vybor, SAV (Slovak Action Committee) was transformed into the Slovak Osvobodenny Vybor, SOV (Slovak Liberation Committee), which allegedly includes four Slovak parties, with headquarters in Buenos Aires and branches in US, France, Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Germany and Austria. . . . Subject President of its Executive Committee.
- 2 Dec 48: Made report to Argentinian police concerning Slovak Communists in Buenos Aires, allegedly based on his successful penetrating local Slovak groups.
- Dec 48: Karol Sidor, Slovak separatist in Canada, founded his organization Slovak National Council Abroad (Slovenska Narodna Rada v Zahranici, SNRvZ). Subject named as its representative in Argentina. But Subject requested more representation within the organization, which Sidor denied. Subject did not recognize Sidor's precedence over his own organization.
- 23 Mar 48: Czechoslovakia requested Subjects' extradition from Argentina.
- Feb 48: US authorities established that Subject's mailing address in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was fictitious and that he never entered US.
- 22 Dec 47: US State sent circular to all representatives abroad, to suspend any action concerning US visa.

member?
probably both
leaders

- Late 1947: Arrived in Argentina under the name of Vlcek allegedly on invitation of Evita Peron. Invested in a firm "Alcaloides Argentinas," producing morphine.
- Oct/Nov 47: Left Rome and absconded in the monasteries of Frascati and Grottaferrata, Embarked ship in Naples, disguised as nun, near Rome.
- Oct 47: In preparation for the so-called little Coup in Slovakia, Slovak Communists had fictitious pamphlets over the signature of Subject printed in Vienna and had them mailed from Vienna as a frameup to the members of the Slovak Democratic Party. (CIA, SO-8912, 24 Oct 47, Secret)
- Sept 47: Subject broadcast to Slovakia allegedly from Barcelona, in truth from Upper Austria or Bavaria.
- June/July 47: Czechoslovak secret police tried to kidnap Subject on direct order of Gottwald and Clementis, but Subject avoided trap. (MIT May 18, 1953, B-12077, 1 Nov 48, B-3, Secret)
- 31 May 47: Subject presented memorandum in the name of SAV to US Embassy in Rome, demanding plebiscite in Slovakia.
- May 47: Subject reported in Salzburg, Austria.
- 15 Apr 47: Czechoslovak Court sentenced in absentia Subject to death by hanging.
- March 47: Subject reportedly living in Vatican City at the home of a Vatican post office employee of Slovak nationality. Subject active in "Intermare" movement, a group of East European rightist exiles. ^{INTERMARIUM}
- 13 Jan 47: Applied for US visa with Consul in Naples, Italy.
- 4 Jan 47: Reported in Ancona, Italy.
- 2 Dec 46: Trial against Josef Tiso and Subject began in Prague, Czechoslovakia requested extradition from Italy, which finally refused extradition, because case not covered by Italian-Czechoslovak Treaty of 1921. Subject sent letter of protest to Court with a New York date line.

- 18 Sept 47: Subject included in the list of war criminals, drawn up in London, and put on Combined Travel Board stop list.
- Aug 46: Subject presented memorandum to Paris Peace Conference on Slovakia.
- June 46: According to Czechoslovak Communists, Subject sent emissary to Slovakia to appoint representatives for Slovak Action Committee (SAV). He claimed to be appointed Slovak Prime Minister by Josef Tiso, then in jail.
- 27 Sep 45: Subject reported living in or near Steyr, Upper Austria. Subject declared that the Slovak State was still legally in existence, broadcasting to Slovakia.
- Spring 45: Traveled to Udine and Rome, contacted Karol Sidor, then still acting as Slovak Ambassador to the Vatican, and requested share of the funds collected from Slovak nationals abroad. Sidor declined. Subject founded own organization, Slovak Akcny Vybor (SAV), Slovak Actions Committee.
- 29 May 45: Subject struck from faculty register of Bratislava University.
- 2 Apr 45: Subject fled Slovakia with Tiso Government group to Kremsmuenster, Upper Austria. Germans impounded 150 kg of morphine brought by Subject. Later Subject reported on the seizure to the Central Opium Board in Geneva, which in turn informed the US Military Government.
- Sept/Nov 44: Subject reassumed political activities. Made speeches calling upon Slovaks to fight for German victory and denouncing the men of the 1944 Slovak uprising as traitors, bandits and gangsters.
- 29 Jun 44: Published article in Slovenska Pravda (Slovak Truth), protesting against Swiss acceptance of a representative of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile, because Czechoslovakia had ceased to exist.
- 29 Jul 40: Relieved from his cabinet post over German demand, returned to law practice in Bratislava. Operated chemical factory "Slovenske Alkaloidi." Reasons for his dismissal, as given by his adherents an "emotional" conference with Hitler in Obersalzberg, false denunciations with the Germans that he had connections with the Allies and his actual connections with US Slovaks" which had never ceased. (CIA, SO-DB-38403, 7 Jun 51, Secret)

Reasons given by Dr. Martin Kvetko: Contacts with Soviet Embassy in Budapest. (State, London, D-1691, 10 Oct 50, Secret). The German Foreign Office Documents show that he was considered by the Germans an opportunist who would adapt his position to the course of the war and that his own bosses, Josef Tiso and Voitech Tuka, had described him as a vain, ambitious gold digger. (German Foreign Office Documents 16 Jan 47).

Tuka

- 7 Jun 40: Received together with Tiso and ~~Tuka~~ by Hitler in Obersalzberg.
- Spring 40: Ordered widening of roads in preparation for the German attack against Yugoslavia.
- 1940: Signed agreement with Germany to send forced laborers to Germany. Their wages were credited to the State of Slovakia.
- 27 Oct 39: Minister of Foreign Affairs ^{and} of the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister of the "Independent" State of Slovakia.
- Aug 1939: Agreement concluded with Germany, establishing military zone in preparation of the invasion of Poland.
- 14 Mar 39: Establishment of the "Independent" State of Slovakia. Subject appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Conclusion of German Slovak trade agreement. Disarmament of Czechoslovak troops and surrender of military factories to Germany.
- 13 Mar 39: Tiso, Tuka and Subject received by Hitler in Berlin.
- 7-10 Mar 39: Subject in Vienna, placed himself at disposal of Hitler, negotiated with Seyss-Inquart and Buerckel, broadcast to Slovakia over "Radio Danube" (Special interrogation of Wilhelm Keppler, then Hitler's special representative for Slovakia. MIS Center in Oberursel, Sept/Oct 45, Secret).
- 12 Feb 39: Tiso and Subject traveled to Berlin behind the back of ^{the} Czechoslovakian Government and were received by Hermann Goering.
- 16 Dec 38: Elected deputy of Hlinka Party in one ticket election.
- 1 Dec 38: Minister of Transportation and Public Works of Slovak Autonomous (regional) Government.

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- 2 Nov 38: Negotiated in Komarom with Tiso and Hungarian Foreign Minister Kanya on agreement on the cession of Southern Slovakia to Hungary.
- 28 Oct 38: Meeting with Goering and Arthur Seyss-Inquart.
- 7 Oct 38: Under German pressure, an Autonomous Slovak Government was established, appointed by the Central Government headed by General Syrový, in Prague, Subject made Minister of Justice, Social Insurance and Health of the Autonomous Government.
- 19 Sept 38: Sent memorandum to Czechoslovak Prime Minister Milan Hodza with extreme claims for Slovak independence.
- Summer 38: Organization of the Hlinka Guards, a paramilitary blackshirt formation following the pattern of the Nazi stormtroopers and absorbing the remnants of the ~~existing~~ illegal Rodobrana (Home Guards) of Vojtech Tuka. Subject was in charge of transport affairs. Staged mass meeting of Hlinka Party in June 38, sent memo to British Mediator Lord Runciman, with Slovak demands.
- 15 Mar 38: After the invasion of Austria, Subject went to Vienna with Sano Mach for contact with Nazi leaders.
- 7 Feb 38: ^{Probably personally involved} [Agreement between Hlinka Party, Sudetendeutsche (Henlein) and Hungarian minority parties on cooperation.] Subject Vice-chairman and founder-member of the Slovak-German Society.
- 1936--38: Subject, leader of most radical wing of the Hlinka Party (Hlinko-Slovenska Ludova Strana, HSLs), Founder and editor of the monthly "Nastup, # "Der Angriff" (The Attack), financially supported by Nazi, on anti-West, fascist, anti-semitic lines. Refused permission to teach for political reasons at Bratislava University,
- About 1934: Law practice in Bratislava. Carried on investment speculation in England.
- 1927: Member of the Hlinka Party. Allegedly also member of the illegal Rodobrana, As a student, member of the Slovak-Hungarian Union. Drafted to serve with Czechoslovak Army, Officer of the Reserve.

Political
Position:

Subject took an active part in the establishing of the Hitler sponsored "Independent" Slovak State, in which he held a cabinet post for eight months. After the war he has led an extreme right wing group of Slovak separatists, the Slovak Liberation Committee (SOV). Subject is "one of the most extreme protagonists of the idea of a Slovak State, as well as the most faithful collaborator and imitator of Hitlerite fascism. That means that he is also the most radical opponent of Czecho--Slovak cooperation and a Czecho-slovak State. At the time when the Czechoslovak Republic was passing through its most critical period, he was busier than ever in that direction. During the Munich crisis, Dr. D. presented himself as the most radical of radicals" (Enclosure to State, London, D-169I, 10 Oct 50, Secret). "Very pro--German and pro-Hitler, even at the same time he had good relations with the Catholic Church" (A Czech refugee in Switzerland, reported by State, Berne, 17 Jun 52, Secret). A friend of Subject characterizes him as a "great realist in politics, possessed of a great elasticity which permitted him to yield in superficial matters," but his elasticity had its limits, as proved by his falling in disgrace with the Germans." "He is a Slovakian above all else." (Quoted in CIA, SO-DB 38403, 10 Oct 51, Secret). He identified himself with the policy of the Tiso Government, even after his exit from the cabinet, he denounced vehemently the Slovak uprising of 1944 and follow-
ed Tiso to Kremsmuenster. He maintained in public statements and broadcasts the continuous legal existence of the Slovak State and organized his adherents first in the Slovak Action Committee and later in the Slovak Liberation Committee (SOV), with headquarters in Buenos Aires and subsequently in Austria and Germany. He failed to win the adherence of the majority of Slovak separatists in the United States and of the "First Slovak League of America" which followed Karol Sidor and his successors. Its press organs are: Slovenska Informacna Sluzba (Slovak Information Service) and Slovenska Republica (The Slovak Republic). He kept contact with other more or less fascist anti-Communist groups, as "Inter-mare," "Anti-Communist Bloc of Nations, ABN, and the Committee of Central and Eastern European Affairs. In America his followers form the "American Friends of Slovak Freedom" their press organs ^{are} head the Slovak v Amrike and the Slovenska Republika in Chicago. Subject attacked Sidor as not an uncompromising enough advocate of Slovak independence, because Sidor had wavered in certain

moments and favored a Slovak-Polish federation. He accused him of secret overtures to the Czechoslovaks. His hatred of the Czechs is even greater as his enmity of the Soviets. "We should see to it, that the Czechs who are Moscow's puppets in Slovakia are discriminated in the same way as the Soviets" (His "General Directions for Liberation Activities At Home"). He accused the Council of Free Czechoslovakia of acting in secret understanding with the Prague Government. (Notes from the Foreign Language Press, AV-321, 3 May 1952). Subject's activities are described in various reports emanating from State, Vienna (D-838, 4 Nov 52, D-8154, 26 Jun 53, about internal quarrels in the SOV; D-1598, 1 Apr 52, about relations to Sudetendeutsche expellees, and D-538, 7 Oct 53 with attached translation of "General Directions for Liberation Activities at Home by Subject, all Secret). In Germany and Austria the SOV works hand in glove with the Sudeten-German expellees and has won the support of the ~~Austrian~~ ^{Austrian} daily Salzburger Nachrichten and its editor Gustav Canaval. A slovak defector from the Kysuca district reported, that the Durcansky extremist were in the minority in that district, while Sidor was more popular. (State, Vienna, 9 Jun 52, Confid). According to a report of unknown reliability of 14 Jan 49, Subject has lost considerable prestige to Sidor. One of the causes is Durcansky's outward attachments toward Nazis elements and Peron followers (CIA, DB-28668, 7 Sept 51, Secret). Another source reports that Subject has following only among the radical fascists from war time (War Dept Gen. Staff R-PL 34-51, 2 Aug 51, Secret).

Personal
Characteristics:

Subject is ²very active and energetic personality. "Durcansky is a controversial figure previously identified with pro-Nazi and extreme elements in Slovakia and elsewhere" (State, BI undated, Confidential). "Considered a highly accomplished international lawyer" (State, Berne, 17 June 52 from a Czech refugee source in Switzerland, Conf). "Had a bad reputation even in pre-war days as a lawyer, being more interested in business profit than in justice" (State, Frankfutt, 26 Jun 52, source Slovak defector, Secret.) "A rather slippery customer" (Opinion of Brit. For. Off. official, State, London, A-1190, ~~xx~~/24 Jun 49, Confid). "The Embassy rates Durcansky as a scoundrel of the highest order" (State, Prague, D-317, 3 Apr 47, Restricted.) "He is probably not a dangerous person,

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but he is sure to be troublesome in a sense that he will certainly not contribute to the unity of the emigre camps" (State, London, No. 1691, 10 Oct 40, Conf). "Described as very opportunistic and no good in this country". (State, Public Liaison/BI, Memo, quoting opinion of a Church group in Washington, D. C., Confid). The German Foreign Office Documents (16 Jan 47) record unfavorable characterization within Subject's own camp: "Tiso and Tuka characterized Durcansky as a vain, ambitious gold digger, ~~is~~ always aligning himself with the strongest party."

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