

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

DURCANSKY

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SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE PERSONALITY INFORMATION

2 November 1954

Name: DURCANSKY, Ferdinand, (Dr.) (State/BID, Sep 54)
DURKAOUSKI (RI/201, 29 Aug 43)
DURCANSEI, (RI/201, 14 Sep 44)
DURCHANSEY, (RI/201, 15 Jan 46)
DURCIANSKY, (RI/201, 13 Jan 48)

Aka: VILCEK, Mador (RI/201, 20 May 48)

Address: (As of 20 Jun 53) Anif Castle near Groedig, Land Salzburg, Austria (State/BID, Sep 54)

FEC Relationship: Subject as a leading Slovak separatist, has frequently criticized the programs and personnel of RFE and the Council of Free Czechoslovakia (CFC) (see Allegations)

Birthdate: 18 Dec 06

Birthplace: Rajec, near Zilina, Hungary, later Czechoslovakia (State/BID, Sep 54)

Family:

Father (deceased) - JuraJ DURCANSKY, a follower of Father HLINKA (see Associates) and a member of the Czechoslovakian Senate (State/BID, Sep 54). Said to have been held in high esteem by the Vatican because he defended Catholic Church interests in Slovakia (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, attachment). Local gossip had it that Subject's father was a gypsy (State/BID).

Brother - Jan DURCANSKY (aka: Jan DUBRAVKA), born 16 Feb 02. Doctor of Law, Bratislava, 1926. Practiced law, 1931-1939; notary public and president of the Bratislava section of the Hlinka Party, 1939-1945. Fled to Austria (1945), to Italy (1946) and to Argentina (1947). Presently an Argentine citizen working as a clerk in the Direccion Nacional de Migraciones, living at Avenue 17 de Octubre #2182, Buenos Aires. Member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak Liberation Committee. Sub-source of a CIA informant; presently being considered for operational clearance (STC/SPB, file #32006). See Possible Operational Use.

Wife - Elisabeth, born in Bratislava, 23 Mar 11 (RI/201, 13 Jan 48). While working for the CIC in Austria she was involved in an incident in which an unnamed person (possibly an American agent) was "blown sky-high" to Czech intelligence (RI/201, 21 Aug 53).

Children - George, born in Bratislava, 7 Nov 39; Zuzs, born in Bratislava, 3 Sep 41 (RI/201, 13 Jan 48).

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Religion: Roman Catholic (State/BID, Sep 54)
 National Group: Extreme Slovak separatist leader, pro-German. (State/BID, Sep 54). See Political Attitudes.
 Education: Graduated from gymnasium and from the Law School of Komen-skeho University in Bratislava. Studied at the Sorbonne (Paris), The Hague, and Berlin. Doctorate in law from the University of Bratislava (RI/201, 20 Sep 50; 21 Mar 51, Encl; 22 Aug 52).
 Languages: Slovak, Czech, German, French, English, Polish, Italian, Hungarian (IO, State/BID, Sep 54; RI/201, 13 Jan 48)
 Occupation: Lawyer, law instructor, chemical manufacturer, politician
 Citizenship: Formerly Czechoslovakian. Now believed to be a citizen of Argentina (RI/201, 27 Jan 53).
 Travel: (Reference, except where otherwise noted, is to State/BID, Sep 54)
 1925-1939 - as a student, to Paris, the Hague, and Berlin (RI/201, 20 Sep 50; 21 Mar 51, Encl; 22 Aug 52)
 March 1938 - Vienna
 12 Feb 39 - Berlin
 7-10 Mar 39 - Vienna
 13 Mar 39 - Berlin
 7 Jun 39 - Obersalzburg, Austria
 2 Apr 45 - Austria
 Spring 1945 - Udine, Rome
 27 Sep 45 - reported living near Steyr, Upper Austria
 1945-1946 - "kept changing his address from Switzerland to Italy to France" (RI/201, 21 Mar 51)
 January 1946 - Rome (RI/201, 11 Jan 46)
 1946 - Several trips to France (RI/201, 25 Nov 46)
 December 1946 - Rome to Frascati to Grotta Ferrate, Italy (RI/201, 25 Mar 47)
 March 1947 - Vatican City, Rome
 May 1947 - Salzburg
 September 1947 - reported living in the USA (doubtful) (RI/201, 9 Feb 48)
 c. October 1947 - sailed from Naples to Argentina (RI/201, 12 Feb 48)
 February 1948 - reported in Amzone, Germany (doubtful) (RI/201, 9 Feb 48)
 July 1948 - reported in America (doubtful if it means the USA) (RI/201, 19 Jul 48)
 12 Sep 50 - left Argentina by plane (RI/201, 3 Jan 51)
 14 Sep 50 - Zurich, Switzerland (RI/201, 19 Jan 53)
 " - arrived in London by plane (RI/201, 1 Mar 51)
 9 Oct 50 - Geneva, Switzerland
 Fall 1950 - Luxembourg, France, Belgium, Austria (RI/201, 3 Jan 51)
 14 Dec 50 - left England by air (RI/201, 19 Jan 53)
 15 Dec 50 - arrived Montreal

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January 1951 - Rome (doubtful) (RI/201, 13 Aug 51)
 March 1951 - reported traveling in USA (doubtful) and Canada (RI/201, 19 Apr 51)
 April 1951 - Buenos Aires, Argentina (RI/201, 19 Apr 51)
 c.20 May 52 - arrived in Europe from Argentina (RI/201, 24 Jun 52)
 May 1952 - French Zone, Austria (RI/201, 23 May 52)
 24 Jun 52 - Paris (RI/201, 24 Jun 52)
 Jun-Jul 1952 - Lins, Austria
 September 1952 - Salzburg, Austria (RI/201, 19 Sep 52); reported attempting to enter Amzone, Germany (RI/201, 11 Sep 52)
 9 Nov 52 - entered West Germany (RI/201, 3 Dec 52)
 December 1952 - Munich (RI/201, 18 Dec 52)
 October 1953 - Vienna
 22 Oct 53 - Bonn (RI/201, 19 Jan 54)
 March 1954 - Munich (IO, FEC list of emigre organizations, 1954)

Subject began his attempts to enter the USA when he registered himself and his family with the Amconsul in Naples on the Czech quota waiting list on 14 Nov 46 (RI/201, 13 Jan 48). He followed this with a visa application on 13 Jan 47 (State/BID, Sep 54). A State Department cable noted in November 1947 that the visa had not been granted, and reported speculation that Subject would nevertheless attempt to enter the USA either overtly or clandestinely (RI/201, undated). In October 1950 Subject again applied for an American visa (State/BID, Sep 54). Meanwhile a delegation including the Reverend Rudolf DELONG and John SCIRANKA (see Associates) had called on the State Department to find out why Subject had been refused a visa when one had been issued to Karel SIDOR (see Associates). The Department replied that in its view the two cases were distinguished because Subject had been declared a war criminal by the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC) (RI/201, 6 Jul 50; see also IO, SO/SSD, 21 Jun 54). An OPC memorandum contained the statement that although Subject was understood to have had hopes of entering the USA, OPC would "advise most strongly that steps be taken to insure that he should not be granted a visitor's visa" (RI/201, 18 Oct 50). No request for a visa has been submitted by Subject since 1950 (RI/201, 5 Mar 53).

Memberships:

1927 - Hlinka Slovak Peoples' Party (State/BID, Sep 54); reported to be a co-founder of the party (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl.).
 1927 - Rodobrana ("Home Guard") (State/BID, Sep 54)
 1927 - Slovak-Hungarian Union (State/BID, Sep 54)
 ? - Nastup, a Slovakian student organization. Said to be a leader of the Catholic student youth movement (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl.).
 1938 - Slovak-German Society; Vice-Chairman (State/BID, Sep 54)

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- 1938 - Hlinka Guards, paramilitary organization of the right wing-Hlinka Party; head of the transport section (State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1945-1949 - Slovak Action Committee, group of Slovakian emigres working for an independent Slovakia (State/BID, Sep 54); founder and president.
- 1946 - Federal Club of Central Europe, an organization dedicated to overthrowing the satellite regimes in Eastern Europe (RI/201, 25 Nov 46).
- 1947 - Intermarium, a "European federalist organization composed of various dissident elements; . . . rightist and nationalist in character" (RI/201, 20 Sep 54), sponsored by the Vatican (RI/201, 7 Dec 46; State/BID).
- 1949 - Slovak Liberation Committee, successor to Slovak Action Committee; founder, and president of the Executive Committee (State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1949 - Committee of Central and East Europe, rightist group whose activities were suspended by the Argentine police (RI/201, 11 Jul 49; 17 Mar 49).
- 1950 - Anti-Communist Bloc of Nations; Executive Committee (State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1954 - European Association for Scientific Study of the Refugee Problem; Subject reported to be working with (fna) KOENRUP, a German official who is Secretary-General of this organization (RI/201, 25 Mar 54).

Associates:

- CERNAK, Matus - former Slovak Minister to Berlin; Slovak National Council Abroad (SNCA) representative in Germany; CIA informant (I&R FEC Review, Section V/SIDOR).
- DILONG, P. Rudolf (Reverend) - Franciscan priest; listed as a reference by Subject (RI/201, 13 Jan 48). Said to be Subject's emissary in the USA (IO, 7 Aug 50). Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Slovak Liberation Committee (SLC) (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl 2).
- FILIPPO, Virgilio (Father) - Argentine National Deputy (RI/201, 20 Sep 48). Former ecclesiastical aide to President PERON (RI/201, 14 Jul 49). Head of the "Anti-Communist and anti-Imperialist League" (RI/201, 10 Aug 49).
- KRAJCOVIC, Vojtech (Dr.) - head of the National Committee for the Liberation of Slovakia, smallest and least influential of the exile Slovak separatist organizations. He claims to be independent of both SIDOR and Subject; he was supported by John SCIRANKA, an ardent DURCANSKY man (see below). A CIA memo reported that KRAJCOVIC and his close associate Peter LUKAS were "political adventurers and opportunists who are only interested in obtaining

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money and political recognition" (RI/201, 7 Jun 51)

MALY, Anton - SLC representative in Austria (RI/201, 26 Mar 52), former manager of an electrical power plant in Bratislava. Said to be "up to his ears" in the intelligence business (RI/201, 11 Apr 51). Reported to be in charge of a transmitter, "The Voice of the Slovak Republic", broadcasting from his home or shop in Austria (RI/201, 20 Nov 51).

MECIAR, Stanislav (Professor) - former professor at the University of Bratislava; president of the Assembly of the Slovak Liberation Committee (RI/201, 7 Jun 51).

POKORNY, Ctibor (Dr.) - SLC representative in Germany; liaison between the SLC and ZIPPER (RI/201, 11 Apr 51). Said to be negotiating with the Germans for time on the Hamburg and Stuttgart radios (RI/201, 14 Apr 53). Vice-Chairman, Executive Council of the SLC (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl 2).

SCRANKA, John - US citizen, born in Pittsburgh, Pa., 5 Sep 1902. Reported to have served three years in Sing Sing for a stock swindle. Editor of *Slovak v Amerike*, Slovak separatist paper in New York which supports Subject and the SLC (IO, SO/SSD, 21 Jun 54).

SIDOR, Karel - former Slovak Minister to the Vatican (1939-1945), died 1953. In exile he and Subject were rivals for the leadership of Slovak separatist refugees. When SIDOR refused to support his program and to share certain funds with him in 1945, Subject formed his extreme right wing Slovak Liberation Committee (SLC). In 1948 SIDOR became head of the Slovak National Council Abroad (SNCA), a more moderate group advocating an autonomous Slovakia within a Danubian or East European federation. Several attempts to unite the two organizations failed and SIDOR and Subject continued to berate each other's philosophy, strategy, and tactics. When SIDOR died, the SNCA went into something of an eclipse; today at least in Germany the SLC is probably the stronger of the two (RI/201, various sources; I&R FEC Review, Section V/Karel SIDOR).

TISO, Josef (Mgr) - successor to Father HLINKA; premier of the independent Slovakian government, 1939-1945; executed after the war by the Czech government for treason.

HLINKA, Andrej (Father) - founder of the Hlinka Slovak Peoples' Party (HSLS), a right wing party advocating Slovak autonomy. Died 1939. (Also see Personality Summary on SIDOR, Section V, for elaboration of the Hlinka Party.)

Employment:

1927 - Reserve officer with the Czechoslovakian Army (State/BID, Sep 54).

About 1934 - Lawyer in Bratislava, engaged in investment speculation in the United Kingdom (State/BID, Sep 54).

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- ? - Hlinka Slovak Peoples' Party deputy in the Czech Parliament (RI/201, 12 Dec 50).
- 1936-1938 - Editor of Nastup (The Attack), a Slovak separatist anti-Western and anti-Semitic monthly subsidized by the Nazis (RI/201, 20 Sep 50).
- Oct-Dec 1938 - Minister of Justice, Social Insurance and Health in the autonomous Slovak government (State/BID, Sep 54).
- Dec 38-Mar 39 - Hlinka Party deputy and Minister of Transportation and Public Works in the autonomous Slovak government (State/BID, Sep 54).
- Mar 39-Jul 40 - Minister of Foreign Affairs in the independent Slovak government (State/BID, Sep 54).
- Oct 39-Jul 40 - Minister of Interior and Deputy Prime Minister in the independent Slovak government (State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1940-1945 - Lawyer, Bratislava; Professor of International law, University of Bratislava; owner of chemical factory, "Slovenke Alkaloid" (RI/201, 20 Sep 50; 2- Mar 51, Encl; State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1946 - Broadcast to Slovakia from a ship in the Bay of Naples (RI/201, 20 Nov 51).
- 1947 - Invested in Buenos Aires firm, "Alcaloides Argentinos", producing morphine (State/BID, Sep 54).
- 1950 - Occupation reported as "Director of Chemical factory" (RI/201, 1 Mar 51).

NOTE: A biographical sketch of Subject by FEC reported that since 1945 he has lived on the proceeds of a large amount of medicaments and opium that he took with him out of Slovakia in 1945 (IO, FEC, Feb 54). It is also possible that he has received funds from the sale of bonds to Slovak refugees. These bonds were to be redeemed by the liberated Slovak Republic (RI/201, undated) (see also RI/201, 19 Jul 51)

Personal History

For the political background, see I&R FEC Review, Section IV/Czechoslovakia

Subject was born in 1906 near Zilina, Slovakia, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His father was a follower of Father Andrej HLINKA (see Associates) and a member of the Czechoslovakia Senate (State/BID, Sep 54). Subject was graduated from the Law School of Komenského University in Bratislava, the principal city of Slovakia. He studied

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at the Sorbonne and returned to Bratislava and completed work for a Doctor of Laws degree (RI/201, 20 Sep 50; 21 Mar 51, Encl).

In 1927 Subject was drafted to serve as a Reserve Officer with the Czech Army. For the next few years he apparently practiced law in Bratislava, and represented the Hlinka Slovak Peoples Party in Czech parliament (RI/201, 12 Dec 50; State/BID, Sep 54).

In 1936 Subject founded and edited *Nastup* (The Attack), a fascist, anti-Semitic magazine subsidized by the Nazis. In February 1938 Subject was party to an agreement between Slovak, Sudeten-German, and Hungarian nationalists on a joint plan of action against the Czech government in Prague. (RI/201, 12 Dec 50). In the summer of 1938 Subject took charge of the transport section of the Hlinka Guards, described by the State Department as a "paramilitary blackshirt formation following the pattern of the Nazi storm-troopers . . ." (State/BID, Sep 54).

Subject forwarded Slovakian demands for autonomy to Lord RUNCIMAN, whom the British appointed to mediate between the Sudeten-Germans and the Prague government. In September, at the request of German Foreign Minister Joachim von RIBBENTROP, Subject agreed to present to Czech Prime Minister Milan HODZA demands which, if granted, would have altered fundamentally the nature of the Czechoslovakian state. As a result of this and other pressures Dr. HODZA resigned, and in the Munich Agreement of 30 September 1938 Czechoslovakia ceded the Sudeten areas to Germany (RI/201, 12 Dec 50; State/BID, Sep 54; Encyclopaedia Britannica, article on Czechoslovakia).

Czechoslovakia was reconstituted as a federative state with autonomous regional governments in Slovakia and Ruthenia. On 7 October 1938 Subject was appointed Minister of Justice, Social Insurance, and Health in the autonomous Slovak government presided over by Monsignor Josef TISO (see Associates) (State/BID, Sep 54). Subject petitioned Hermann GOERING and Arthur SEYSS-INQUART (Chancellor of Austria) to help Slovakia break away from Czechoslovakia, and promised that in return an independent Slovakia would ally itself closely with Germany (RI/201, 12 Dec 50). Subject became Minister of Transportation and Public Works in the regional parliament as a Hlinka Party deputy in an election in which all other parties had been dissolved or absorbed into the Hlinka Party (RI/201, 12 Dec 50; State/BID, Sep 54).

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From January to March 1939 Subject worked with the Germans to encourage Slovak opposition to the Prague government (RI/201, 27 Jun 50; 12 Dec 50). On 12 March he accompanied TISO to Berlin where they conferred with GOERING and HITLER. On 14 March German troops invaded Bohemia, and Slovakia was proclaimed an independent nation. Subject was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, and later Minister of the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister, of the Slovakia government (State/BID, Sep 54).

As Minister of Foreign Affairs Subject concluded an agreement with Germany in August 1939 which established a military zone in western Slovakia and facilitated the German invasion of Poland. He also signed an agreement to send forced labor to Germany, and permitted the German Army to occupy key Slovakian factories and to requisition and ship to Germany large quantities of war materiel (RI/201, 12 Dec 50; State/BID, Sep 54).

On 29 July 1940 Subject was dismissed from all his Cabinet posts (State/BID, Sep 54). A number of contradictory reasons have been cited for his dismissal. Fritz FIALA claimed that Subject quarreled with BERNHARD, the German Ambassador to Slovakia, over whether Slovakia was at war with the Allies, and whether she could receive Allied Ambassadors. According to FIALA, Subject believed that Slovakia was at war only with Poland, and could therefore receive Allied Ambassadors. He quoted RIBBENTROP as saying that BERNHARD had to be removed, "but from grounds of prestige DURCANSKY must also go . . ." (RI/201, 25 Sep 44). Vojtech KRAJCOVIC (see Associates) stated that Subject had been dismissed because he wanted to establish contacts with England and France (RI/201, 20 Sep 50). A source described as a personal friend asserted that Subject had been fired because "false information was supplied, charging that DURCANSKY was working on both sides of the street and constantly maintaining contacts with hostile powers" (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl).

A CIA staff officer stated that Subject had accumulated around himself a group of persons who on the one hand "pledged themselves for closer collaboration with the Nazis" and on the other hand were "making plans for the unlimited ruling of Slovakia themselves." He seemed to think that TISO had purged Subject from the Cabinet in order to salvage what little freedom he could from the Nazis (RI/201, 22 Aug 52, Encl).

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Dr. Martin KVETKO, a Slovak Democrat employed by RFE/Munich, suggested that he had been dismissed by the Germans because of his contacts with the Soviet Embassy in Budapest (State/BID, Sep 54; see Personality Summary, Section V, KVETKO), and another source reported that he "tried to play an independent policy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" (RI/201, 3 Mar 43).

From 1940 to 1944 Subject apparently abstained from political activity, practiced law and managed his chemical factory in Bratislava (RI/201, 22 Aug 52, Encl). In April 1945, as the Russian armies moved westward, he fled to Austria with other members and ex-members of the puppet Slovakian government. There the Germans impounded 150 kilograms of morphine which he had carried out of Slovakia, a fact which he reported to the Central Opium Board in Geneva (State/BID, Sep 54). Another source, a friend of Subject, reported that the morphine had been impounded by the Americans, who returned part of it (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl).

In the spring of 1945 Subject escaped to Rome. When Karel SIDOR (see Associates) and the Slovak League of America (SLA) declined to share with him funds collected from Slovak nationals abroad, Subject organized the Slovak Action Committee (SAC) to work for an independent Slovakia (RI/201, 21 Mar 51; State/BID, Sep 54). Between 1945 and June 1947 he was reported broadcasting to Slovakia from radio "Barcelona", located at various times in Austria, in Udine, Italy, and on a ship in the Bay of Naples (RI/201, 20 Nov 51; I&R [files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54).

An OSS cable stated in December 1945 that Vladimir CLEMENTIS, State Secretary in the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been "perturbed" that the US had permitted Subject to seek refuge in Rome (RI/201, 4 Dec 45). In 1946 the United Nations War Crimes Commission listed Subject as a war criminal (RI/201, 5 Mar 53), and request for extradition by the Czech government was refused by Italy on the grounds that the Treaty of 1921 between the two countries did not apply to war criminals (RI/201, 20 Sep 50).

The Czech Ministry of Information accused Subject of aiding a Slovakian revolt against the government (RI/201, 30 Mar 46). In December 1946 the trial against him opened in Prague, and on 15 April 1947 he was sentenced to death in absentia as a war criminal. In 1948 the Czech government requested his extradition from Argentina, where he was then living, but the request was apparently refused (State/BID, Sep 54).

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In the summer of 1947 Czech intelligence (CIS) allegedly made an unsuccessful attempt to kidnap Subject on orders from the Czech Communist leaders Klement GOTTWALD and Vladimir CLEMENTIS (RI/201, 29 Sep 48; State/BID, Sep 54). In June 1947 Subject was reported broadcasting to Slovakia from either Austria or Italy, although a Prague newspaper stated on 18 June 1947 that his station had recently gone off the air. In September he was reported broadcasting again, this time from either Austria or Bavaria (State/NID, Sep 54).

In October 1947 the Czech Communist Party tried to frame Jan URSINY, deputy chairman of the Czech Slovak Democratic Party, by connecting him with Subject; one (fnu) KOMANDERA, an alleged DURCANSKY (double) agent, was arrested and provided evidence to implicate URSINY and several others in a plot against the Czech state (RI/201, 22 Aug 52, Encl).

In the autumn of 1947 Subject sailed from Naples to Buenos Aires under the pseudonym Nandor VILCEK (RI/201, 12 Feb 48; 20 May 48). The following year he invested in a firm, "Alcaloides Argentinos", formed by Nicholas ENTNER to exploit a new method of extracting morphine directly from the poppy (RI/201, 20 May 48).

Subject's Slovak Action Committee (SAC) became the Slovak Liberation Committee (SLC) in March 1949. Four Slovakian political parties--Peasant, National, Recovery, and Labor--were represented, and Subject took the post of president of the Executive Council in the new organization. (RI/201, 21 Jun 49).

Subject flew to Europe in September 1950. He visited the offices of HICOG and the American Embassy in London attempting to clear himself of the "war criminal" charge, probably in order to facilitate travel to the USA and greater political activity. [The State Department replying to a query from the Swiss government, reported that they still considered him a war criminal in 1953. (RI/201, 27 Jan 53)]. At the time he was busy visiting refugee centers and organizing his followers in Europe. (RI/201, 26 Dec 50; 3 Jan 51; 1 Mar 51; State/BID, Sep 54).

In December 1950 Subject flew to Montreal for the purpose of trying to work out some kind of an agreement with Karel SIDOR (see Associates) and his Slovak National Council Abroad (SNCA) (RI/201, 19 Jan 53; State/BID, Sep 54). Apparently the two rival emigre leaders were unable to agree on the terms of unification and Subject returned to Argentina in April 1951 (RI/201, 19 Apr 51).

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Subject returned to Europe from Argentina in May 1952. The Combined Travel Board refused to grant him a visa to the German Federal Republic on the grounds that he had been declared a war criminal by the UNWCC. Eventually he was able to enter Germany on a visa obtained through the German Consulate in Rome, apparently as a result of ZIPPER intervention on his behalf (see Possible Relationships with Foreign Intelligence Services) (RI/201, 24 Jun 52; 3 Dec 52). He was reported proselytizing among Slovak separatists in refugee camps, and conferring with Sudeten and Czech separatist leaders (RI/201, 18 Mar 53). Early in 1953 he was said to be on the point of installing a transmitter near Augsburg for broadcasts to Slovakia; he is presently living in Munich, according to the latest report (IO, FEC list of emigre organizations, mid-1954).

Political Attitudes

The key to Subject's political program lies in his devotion to the idea of an independent Slovakia and his hatred of a national combined Czechoslovakian state. Before World War II he was known as a leader of the radical wing of the Hlinka Slovak Peoples' Party (HSLS), which favored close ties with Germany and Slovakian autonomy (State/BID, Sep 54; see also I&R FEC Review, Section IV/Czechoslovakia). In 1938 and 1939 he worked with the Germans to hasten the collapse of the Czechoslovakian state, and from 1939 to 1940 he served as a Cabinet Minister in the puppet Slovak government (see Personal History). He maintains that the Slovak State of 1939-1945 has had a continuous legal existence, and demands a plebiscite among its former inhabitants to ascertain their desire for Slovakian independence (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl; 26 Nov 51; State/BID, Sep 54). He is said to have opposed Karel SIDOR's Pan-Slavic idea, "although he was also convinced of the necessity for cooperation among all peoples in Middle Europe" (RI/201, 21 Mar 51, Encl).

The SLC was said by the State Department to be "as anti-Czech as it is anti-Soviet" (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl). Subject maintains that the Czechs voluntarily subjected themselves to the Soviet rule. He therefore "rejects all attempts of the Czechs to re-establish Czechoslovakia", and stated that after the liberation of these territories from the Communists: "We should see to it that the Czechs who are Moscow's puppets in Slovakia are discriminated (sic) in the same way as the Soviets" (RI/201, 26 Mar 52, Encl 2; State/BID, Sep 54).

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Consistent with his opposition to "Czechoslovakianism", Subject supports the aspirations of the various separatist groups--Czech, Sudeten, and Ruthenian, as well as Slovakian--within the Czechoslovakian emigration. He was reported conferring and cooperating with General Lev PRCHALA and the Czech (Bohemian) separatists (RI/201, 19 Mar 51; 11 Apr 51; 18 Mar 53). His relations with the Sudeten-German expellees have been even closer and a State Department despatch described the "close cooperation" between Subject's SLC and the Sudeten Volksdeutsche people in Germany and Austria (RI/201, 1 Apr 52, Encl 1; State/BID, Sep 54). The Volksdeutsche newspaper Wegwarte described Subject as "the most popular and most able politician abroad" (RI/201, 1 Apr 52, Encl).

In a letter to German Federal Republic Chancellor Konrad ADENAUER, Subject set forth his views on the Sudeten question as follows:

"The expulsion of the German citizens with whom we lived for centuries on terms of mutual respect and friendship, corresponded neither to the desire of the Slovak people, nor was it an action of Slovak politics. It was solely the result of Czech chauvinism, intolerance, and Czech-Communist brutality . . .

"We demand legal proceedings against those politicians who are responsible for these atrocities . . . (After the liberation of Czechoslovakia) all those citizens who fled or were expelled should return to the Slovak Republic as citizens with full rights. They will be treated with full equality regardless of their mother language." (RI/201, 26 Mar 52, Encl 2; see also 26 Jun 52).

On another occasion Subject stated that not only should the Sudeten-Germans be permitted to resettle the former Sudeten areas, but these areas should then be allowed to re-annex themselves to Germany. (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl 1).

According to the State Department recent ties between the SLC and the Sudeten-Germans have become so close as to raise the question whether "in seeking cooperation with the stronger and better organized Volksdeutsche groups in Austria, the SLC may be in danger of becoming dominated by ethnic German rather than Slovak interests" (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl 1).

Subject is, of course, strongly anti-communist and anti-Russian. (But a CIA cable from Germany noted that Subject and his associates had "con-

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concentrated primarily not on the struggle against international communism but on internecine strife within the Slovakian emigrant movement: RI/201, 17 May 1951). He has announced that his goal is "to see the world finish the war they have only begun, by declaring war immediately on the Soviet Union" (RI/201, 25 Nov 46). He sent a memorandum to the State Department with an elaborate plan for subverting the USSR and liberating Eastern Europe by appealing to the sentiment for national freedom among peoples in the satellites and the non-Russian areas of the USSR (RI/201, 5 Mar 51, Encl).

Subject does not appear to have been at any time an enthusiastic supporter of democratic institutions. He was pictured by two different Czech refugees as "very pro-German and pro-Hitler" and "an enthusiastic Nazi" (State/BID, Sep 54; RI/201, 18-25 Aug 44), and an OPC report on the Czechoslovakian exile movement described him as having "closely collaborated with the Germans" (RI/201, undated). He is also said to have made speeches in 1944 calling upon Slovaks to fight for German victory and denouncing those who took part in the anti-German Slovak uprising of August 1944 (State/BID, Sep 54). More recently, describing conditions in Slovakia after a hypothetical liberation from the communists, Subject stated that "a successful liberation activity requires that party activity be kept to the minimum" and that "there is no doubt . . . that it is in the interest of Slovakia to reduce the number of political parties in the future" (IO, 13 Oct 53, Encl).

Personality

Captured German Foreign Office documents revealed that the Germans considered Subject an opportunist, while Josef TISO and Vojtech TUKA, his colleagues in the Slovak government, characterized him as a "vain, ambitious gold digger". He was described by a British Foreign Office official as "a rather slippery customer", and by the American Embassy in Prague as "a scoundrel of the highest order" (State/BID, Sep 54). A CIA official wrote:

"He was known as a person whose driving force was not hindered by anything . . . 'To reach the goal at any price and at any sacrifice' was DURCANSKY's motto". (RI/201, 22 Aug 52, Encl)

On the other hand a friend pictured him as "a great realist in politics, possessed of a great elasticity which permitted him to yield in superficial matters" (State/BID, Sep 54).

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Allegations Against Subject (also see Congressional Interest)

1. A. VOLTERAKIS, a Greek Intelligence officer, said Subject was one of a number of foreign quislings "who before the war collaborated with the Nazis in order to subjugate their countries and their compatriots" (RI/201, 29 Aug 43).

2. Subject was included on a list of war criminals drawn up by the United Nations War Crimes Commission in 1945 or 1947 (RI/201, 13 Jan 53; State/BID, Sep 54).

3. A CIA report alleged that Subject was criticized by the Slovak community in Buenos Aires for being selfish and ambitious, a proponent of totalitarian ideology and violently anti-Semitic and anti-American, and a friend of Ante PAVELICH, Father Virgilio FILIPPO (see Associates) and many other Nazi and Fascist collaborators. (RI/201, 14 Jul 49)

4. Ladislav SEGEC, a Slovak in the Valka refugee camp, wrote a long, detailed and highly unfavorable account of Subject's career up to 1945. He declared that Subject "praised Adolf HITLER and the German Reich, and uttered slander against the western powers and their government institutions"; that Subject "in the press and radio . . . provoked hatred and antagonism against the Jews"; and that he took part, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the Slovak declaration of war against the United States and in the repression of the Slovak uprising of August 1944 (RI/201, 12 Dec 50).

NOTE: The (unconfirmed) declaration of war and the Slovak uprising took place after Subject had been dismissed from the Slovakian cabinet, when he was a private citizen practicing law in Bratislava. (See Personal History)

5. A CIA informant who leaned toward the SIDOR camp alleged that the supporters of Subject's Slovak Liberation Committee consisted mainly of persons who during World War II willingly cooperated with the Germans. (RI/201, 21 Nov 51).

6. A CIA employee, in a biographical statement of Subject, made the following remarks:

"In the spring of 1939 he (Subject) supported the movement for independence of Slovakia with the help of German Nazi leaders . . . DURCANSKY was the man who in the critical time of March 1939 left Slovakia for Vienna and looked for help to anyone who could support his personal aims. He

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established contact with top Nazi leaders (e.g., Baldur von SCHIRACH) and prepared the way of his own political benefits at the expense of the Slovak nation's fate. He made the first step for the visit of Slovak politicians at the Fuhrer's headquarters and joined Dr. Josef TISO in his flight to HITLER's Headquarters. There, on 13 March 1939, they decided about the future of Slovakia and the next day proclaimed in Bratislava the Slovak Republic under the support and auspices of Germany and HITLER himself . . . "

He also described Subject as a " political gambler, materialist and totalitarian who is using the Slovak nation as an instrument of his desires " (RI/201, 22 Aug 52, Encl).

7. The unnamed author of a memorandum from FEC made the following accusations against Subject:

"He asked Nazi leaders to use their influence in severing Slovakia from Czecho-slovakia. In return he promised independent Slovakia would maintain close cooperation with Germany in military, political, and economic matters. He accepted weapons and explosives from agents of Nazi Germany, to provoke chaos by terroristic action . . .

"(As Minister of the Interior, Subject) did everything to mould the Slovak state after the Nazi model . . . He created an analogy of the Nazi SS formations under the name of the Hlinka Guard. During his regime, 3,000 democratic Slovaks have been jailed; 3,995 were sentenced; 30,000 persons were dragged off to German concentration camps; 109,000 Jews were deported to Germany and Poland, of which 68,000 perished. Germany was provided with 120,000 Slovak workers. During all this time DURCANSKY provoked hatred and aspersion against the Jews in press and radio . . . A lawyer by profession, DURCANSKY and his office profited from (aryanization) arisation (sic) of Jewish property. He was the recipient of bribes, running into hundreds of thousands, from terrified Jews.

" . . . When in 1944 an uprising against the Germans and the DURCANSKY-TISO regime broke, owing to Slovak

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sympathies with the Allies, DURCANSKY took part in the merciless suppression of that rebellion. Thousands of persons were liquidated . . .

" . . . In 1945 DURCANSKY fled from Slovakia together with the Germans. He took with him a large amount of medications and also opium. He lives on the proceeds of this loot . . ." (IO, FEC, Feb 54)

8. An unnamed Slovak refugee charged that Subject "had a bad reputation even in pre-war days as a lawyer, being more interested in business profit than in justice" (State/BID, Sep 54).

Allegations by Subject against Radio Free Europe and the Council of Free Czechoslovakia

1. Subject wrote a letter in 1948 to General Lucius CLAY denouncing Mikulas FERJENCIK and other members of the CFC (I&R Files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54).

2. Documents published by Subject's Slovak Liberation Committee in Munich and London accused the NCFE of pointing its radio programs toward subjugating the interests of the Slovak people, and of employing Czechs who formerly collaborated with the Communists (RI/201, 20 Mar 52).

3. A State Department despatch reported that the stimulus behind criticisms of the personnel and programs of the Czech Desk of RFE seemed to be coming from the SLC (RI/201, 1 Apr 52).

4. An FEC memorandum stated:

"Our continuing study of the various attacks on PER-OUTKA (head of the Czech Desk of RFE) indicates that they are inspired by agents of two political adventurers and agitators, namely General PRCHALA and Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY . . . His (Subject's) fulminations and vilifications of many prominent Czechs regularly appear in obscure newspapers published in the Czech or Slovak language in various centers of Czech emigration . . ." (RI/201, 15 May 52).

5. Subject is alleged to have accused the Council of Free Czechoslovakia (CFC) of acting in secret understanding with the Prague government.

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(i.e., with the present Communist government of Czechoslovakia) (State/BID, Sep 54).

6. Subject and Matus CERNAK, the SNCA representative in Germany, were joint authors of a statement criticizing RFE/Munich for suppressing the majority (i.e., Slovaks), recruiting personnel among communists, betraying routes of escape from Czechoslovakia, demoralizing their listeners with American jazz, and so on (IO, undated).

7. In a letter to Mr. GRIFFITH (probably William GRIFFITH, Policy Advisor, RFE/Munich) Subject stated that the broadcasts of RFE "propagate . . . the Czechoslovak conception which is being regarded by the Slovak people as one of the causes of its present plight and which, according to absolutely reliable information from Slovakia, conflicts with the will of the Slovak people" (IO, file #345, 18 Feb 53).

Possible Operational Use

Peter PRIDAVOK, head of the SNCA in London, reported to the FEI that in 1944 Subject and Vojtech KRAJCOVIC (see Associates) decided that it would be expeditious to establish contact with US Military authorities (RI/201, 19 Feb 52). There is nothing in the files to indicate that such contact was in fact established.

In 1950 Subject, then living in Argentina, offered to turn over certain information to the US Embassy in Buenos Aires (RI/201, 20 Sep 50; State/BID, Sep 54).

ZIPPER informed CIA in 1950 that it was considering Subject for operational use. Dr. Ctibor POKORNY (see Associates) met with a CIA official and offered to make available the Slovak Liberation Committee's alleged intelligence assets (including 800 armed men in Slovakia: RI/201, 20 Nov 51) in return for financial support and a new transmitter for Slovakia (RI/201, 23 Apr 51). ZIPPER's request touched off a long CIA debate about Subject's intelligence assets and the dangers involved in using him. A CIA cable from Washington warned that proposals to use Subject were "in conflict with Washington intentions and past instructions" and might imperil current operations (RI/201, 28 Apr 51). But in May 1952 Washington cabled Pullach:

CLEARANCE GRANTED ZIPPER CONTACT DURCANSKY
ON CONDITION THAT INITIAL CONTACT FOR PURPOSE OB-

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DURCANSKY

1951

TAINING COMPLETE SURVEY DURCANSKY ASSETS AND
THAT NO SUPPORT AGREEMENTS TO BE MADE UNTIL
ASSESSMENT HIS CAPABILITIES MADE (RI/201, 23 May 52).

The following month Frankfurt advised Washington against any commitment to Subject, since they believed he had no present tangible assets of any substance (RI/201, 24 Jun 52; see also RI/201, 18 Dec 52). Finally a Washington meeting called to determine the advisability of support for Subject through ZIPPER agreed that no support--financial or otherwise--should be given Subject, nor should he be helped to get a German visa (RI/201, 22 Jul 52), although Pullach warned Washington that ZIPPER would continue to play with Subject "with or without our approval" (RI/201, 18 Aug 52).

Pullach's fears in this respect were borne out in November 1952 when Subject entered West Germany on a visa obtained (probably through ZIPPER influence) from the German consulate in Rome (RI/201, 3 Dec 52; 14 Mar 53). His presence in Germany was thought to be inimical to American interests (RI/201, 18 Dec 52; 4 Feb 53), and various ways of getting him out were suggested. It was finally decided to encourage Matus CERNAK, the SNCA representative in Germany, to attack Subject and discredit him in the eyes of Slovak emigres, pending the expiration of his visa, when the US would intercede with Bonn in order not to have the visa renewed (RI/201, 18 Dec 52; 4 Feb 53, 6 Feb 53; 20 Feb 53; 24 Feb 53; 2 Mar 53; 14 Mar 53).

In June 1953 Subject indicated (probably through an agent) an interest in [redacted]. A cable from Frankfurt to Washington described him as a "highly undesirable Slovak extremist" and warned [redacted] to stay away from him (RI/201, 19 Jun 53; 24 Jun 53).

The EE/Czech Desk reported Subject had not been used operationally (IO, verbally, 19 Aug 54).

Subject's brother, Jan DURCANSKY, was reported to be the sub-source of a CIA informant in Argentina and is presently being considered for operational clearance. Subject's wife also had some unelaborated connection with CIC (see Family) (STC/SPB, file #32006).

Possible Relationship with Foreign Intelligence Services

Russian - Dr. Martin KVETKO, a Slovak employee of RFE/Munich, asserted that Subject had been dismissed from the Slovakian cabinet in 1940

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because he had contacts with the Russian Embassy in Budapest (State/BID, Sep 54). William HOETTL, described as an intelligence peddler who was suspected as a Soviet agent, was reported to have wanted to enlist Subject in some sort of an intelligence operation (RI/201, 1 Jul 52).

French - A CIC dispatch from Vienna in July 1948 reported that Stefan MACEK, a Slovak, was gathering intelligence information on the CSR for Subject and submitting the information to a Colonel PARCAN (PARCAM), a Slovak affiliated with French intelligence (RI/201, 19 Jul 48).

Argentine - Subject was invited to the Argentine by Evita PERON, wife of Argentine President Juan PERON (State/BID, Sep 54; I&R [] files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54). He gave information to the Argentine police about Slovak communist activity in Buenos Aires (RI/201, 20 Dec 48). Under a pseudonym, Nandor VILCEK, he invested in "Alkaloides Argentinos", a company formed to exploit a new process for producing morphine. A former Minister of Agriculture was also an investor in the firm whose initial operations were partly subsidized by the Argentine government (RI, 4-3-15-3y).

Czechoslovakian - General Mikulas FERJENCIK, former Slovak Minister of the Interior, reported that the CIS in Italy paid a good deal of attention to the activities of Subject and his associates (RI/201, 30 Jul 48). CIA and CIC reports stated that Slovak communists whose party had been absorbed in 1948 by the Czech CP, and who favored a Titoist policy, had sent a courier out of Czechoslovakia to contact Subject in order to map a common plan of action (RI/201, 28 Sep 49; I&R [] files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54; RI/201, Jun 50). A pamphlet, "Summary of Soviet and Satellite Espionage and Communist Activity in the U.S.", was noted by the Security Office to have claimed that Subject and Josef LETTRICH (Slovak Democratic leader in exile) were of interest to CIS operators in the USA (IO, 21 Jun 54).

NOTE: Available information indicates Subject was never legally in the USA (see Personal History and Travel).

Major Alexander MATUS, who was reported by a Czech refugee to have maintained contact with resistance leaders in Czechoslovakia for Subject and SIDOR, warned in March 1947 that his courier, KOMANDERA, was probably a double agent. In August 1947 KOMANDERA was "apprehended" by the Czech police in possession of directives supposedly issued by Subject to various resistance leaders; these documents became the basis for prosecutions against other persons who were arrested at the same time (RI/201, 28 May 51).

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Slovakian - A number of sources have alleged a connection between Subject and the anti-communist Slovakian underground (RI/201, undated; 1 Aug 50; 29 Jan 51; 14 Apr 53). Subject and his associates have made similar claims; for example, Anton MALY (see Associates) asserted that the SLC could supply one brigade for the liberation of Slovakia, and that their underground movement in Slovakia included another battalion (RI/201, 26 Mar 52, Encl 1). Several reports indicated, however, that Subject's networks had been weakened or destroyed (RI/201, 4 May 51; 5 May 51; 28 May 51), and CIA field people were reported to have agreed in 1952 that Subject's "present intelligence potential is virtually nil . . ." (RI/201, 18 Dec 52).

German - Since 1951 Subject has been closely connected with German intelligence efforts through ZIPPER. The Chief of the Czech Desk of ZIPPER is alleged to have interceded with Bonn officials to get him a visa (RI/201, 3 Dec 52) and ZIPPER was reported to be paying Subject's rent in December 1952 (RI/201, 1 Dec 52). A CIA memorandum noted that since Subject's intelligence assets were almost non-existent the German interest in him appeared to be political and was connected with German attempts to take over the leadership of the Slovak emigration (RI/201, 18 Dec 52).

Pullach reported that even after CIA indicated it had no intention of using Subject (see Operational Use), ZIPPER would probably keep him "as (a) special connection for possible future political/psychological fields . . ." (RI/201, 6 Feb 53). In March 1953 ZIPPER denied that Subject was operating a black radio in Augsburg under German sponsorship (RI/201, 14 Mar 53), but in June they reiterated the fact that they would continue to work with him (RI/201, 5 Jun 53).

Name Checks and Investigations

Staff D reported considerable information is maintained on Subject, some of which may be considered derogatory. There appeared to be no specific reference to any ties with the Communists. (IO, Staff D, 27 Jul 54).

STC/SPB reported no record on Subject, while the Security Office advised that very little information was available and that he had not been considered for clearance (STC/SPB; IO, SO/SSD, 21 Jun 54).

A full field investigation of Subject was conducted in 1954 (for results, see I&R [] files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54). Concurrent checks of INS, FBI, CSC, HCUA, ONI, G-2 files revealed no additional information.

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Congressional Interest

1. At a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization on 27 July 1949, Andrew J. VALUCHEK, President of the Slovak National Alliance (an exile group supporting the Council of Free Czechoslovakia) named Subject as one of the henchmen of TISO who "tried hard during World War II to influence American Slovaks to fight for the so-called Slovak state, even though this artificial state on HITLER's orders declared war against the United States" (RI/201, 28 May 51).

2. Congressman Arthur KLEIN (D-NY) in a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives and in letters to the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General protested the granting of a visa to Subject, whom he described as a "Nazi war criminal" (IO, Congressional Record, 19 Jul 50).

NOTE: There is no indication in the files that a visa was ever issued to Subject.

3. Anton MALY (see Associates) claimed Subject had gained entry to Germany in 1952 through the intervention of an (unnamed) U.S. Senator (I&R, C files, SO/SSD, 28 Oct 54).

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