

FOR COORDINATION WITH <sup>ed</sup> State

CONFIDENTIAL

~~W/OP - Mr. Mullick~~ G-8

SEV - Mr. Anderson

C-8  
State D.

June 29, 1955

ES - Howard Trivors

Reply to Correspondence on Dr. Ferdinand Durcansky

Reference is made to the attached letters of April 11 and March 22, 1955 from Mr. L. Rozar.

Durcansky is leader of an emigré political group, the Slovak Liberation Committee. He appears to make Munich his present headquarters, although he has been active politically in earlier years in Buenos Aires. Because of his identification as Minister of the Interior and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the wartime Axis satellite state of Slovakia, and his record of Nazi collaboration before and after the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, this office considers Durcansky a controversial figure whose admission into the United States would not be in the national interest.

Although Durcansky's arrest was sought in 1945 and 1946 on war crimes charges he evaded arrest by flight to Argentina. As indicated in the attached copy of a letter of October 13, 1946 from the Secretary General of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, the Commission examined evidence against Durcansky presented by the Czechoslovak Government and found there to be a prima facie case against him in respect of charges listed and placed him upon its lists of persons who ought to be brought to trial as war criminals. He was condemned to death in absentia by a Czechoslovak court in April 1947 prior to the Communist coup in that country.

Durcansky does not appear to enjoy any significant support among Slovak-Americans favoring a separate Slovak state, most of whom sympathize with a rival Slovak emigre organization, the Slovak National Council Abroad. This organization has the support of the Slovak League of America.

It is understood that in past years the Department has consistently advised consular representatives abroad to refuse a visa to Dr. Durcansky. However, it appears that he has outstanding an application for an immigrant visa at the American Consulate General in Munich, where he was registered March 25, 1953 as non-preference applicant under the Czechoslovak quota. In 1953 the Department informed inquirers as to Durcansky's visa status that further action in his case was awaiting the receipt of information and necessary clearances from the Embassies at Buenos Aires and London, within the jurisdiction of which he formerly resided. Current information on the status of his case does not appear to be available in the Department.

We do not wish to see the Department injected into the crossfire of rival Slovak and Czechoslovak attitudes toward a separate Slovak state and toward

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of that state as an Axis satellite. It is recommended that reply be made along the following lines, to be cleared in EE and VO (Miss Ferrell) in final:

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I have for reply your letter of April 11, 1955 and your letter of March 22, 1955 to the Secretary regarding the desire of Dr. Ferdinand Durcansky to come to this country. I trust you will excuse the delay in replying to your inquiry.

You may be assured that the United States consular officer concerned will give Dr. Durcansky's application appropriate consideration when the condition of the Czechoslovak quota, now over-subscribed, permits processing of his case. His admission into this country must be decided upon the basis of his qualification for entry under the immigration laws and regulations of the United States."

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Attachments:

1. Letter of April 11, 1955.
2. Letter of March 22, 1955.
3. Copy of UN War Crimes Commission Letter.

Copies to:

W/OP - Mr. Hillek  
EE - Mr. Kendrick  
VO - Miss Ferrell

FRANK R. JOHNSON

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