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AUSTRIA SILENT ON DURCANSKY EXTRADITION

Prague CTK in English to Europe 1602 GMT 10 October 1962--L

(Text) Prague--Czechoslovakia has asked Austrian authorities for the extradition of war criminal Ferdinand Durcansky, who recently was in Austria, lecturing on 8 October at the Forschungsinstitut fuer den Donauraum in Vienna. No answer has yet been received from Austria on this matter. These facts were made known today at a press conference in Vienna, held by the Czechoslovak Embassy.

Although authorities in Austria were warned in advance by the Czechoslovak Embassy of the projected appearance of Durcansky, and requested measures to prevent him from using neutral Austria for his attacks on Czechoslovakia, he was allowed to lecture. The Austrian authorities knew that Durcansky was also a war criminal, whose name is contained on the list of war criminals--Vol. 44, page 19, No. 110--and was condemned to death in absentia for his crimes on 15 April 1947 in Czechoslovakia.

Durcansky was the wartime minister of the interior and foreign affairs in the so-called Slovak state. As one of the leaders of the Hlinka Party, he was among chief supporters of severing Slovakia from the republic, under the jurisdiction of Hitler Germany. He shares responsibility for Nazi crimes and mass murders committed against the Slovak people.

At the press conference, a Czechoslovak Embassy official expressed hope that the Austrian authorities would extradite Durcansky to Czechoslovakia in harmony with the tenets of international law of the Austrian State Treaty of 1955.

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