

AIR

HAB-W-1587

17 Dec 54

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

Operational

ECOPHOB-1

REFERENCES: HABA-602, HABA-1500, HABW-1532, TAEW-152, TAB-1310, TAB-1739, TAB-2427, TAB-2724, TAB-2567, TABA-444, TABW-4462

1. In connection with the cases involving the subject of HABA-602, the reference Jan DURANSKY noted in HABA-602 and the subject of HABA-1500 there is submitted herewith some information available at Headquarters which may be of possible interest.

2. Regarding Jan DURANSKY, the Czech Desk informs that Jan is a man who was not particularly politically minded, a fair minded individual, basically not dishonest, not too courageous and who lived on the political reputation of his brother Ferdinand. Jan has been politically associated with his brother for a number of years and is presently his brother's political representative in Argentina. Jan was formerly the head of the Banika-Systrice, region in Central Slovakia where the Slovak uprising against the Slovak State took place while he was the political Commissar. He fled Bratislava prior to April 1945.

3. A foreign service operations memorandum dated 13 January 1948 notes that Jan registered at the U.S. Consulate, Naples, Italy on 14 November 1946, (the same day his brother Ferdinand did) on the Czech quota waiting list. Jan noted he spoke Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, German, and Italian. He stated his intentions to join Mr. John SMUTNY, 614 East 136th St., Los Angeles, California (brother Ferdinand gave the same destination). His address in Italy was listed as care of the Reverend P. Rudolf DELCANG, OFM, Collegio Antoniano, Via Merulana 124, Rome, Italy. His brother Ferdinand listed the same address.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

SECRET

HAB-W-1587  
Page 2

4. A ZIPPER report dated 21 March 1951 reported that Jan was a lawyer and front-line fighter in the HLINKA Party and the HLINKA Movement, and notary public in Bratislava. With his brother, Ferdinand, Jan brought out the newspaper "Natsup" which played a decisive role with the younger Slovakian generation as the printed expression of their will to fight for an independent Slovakia through propagation of the idea of autonomy.

5. Other references on Jan are noted in the material which follows on his brother Ferdinand who is described by the appropriate desk as an extreme rightist nationalist in sympathy with the rightist Germans. Following the collapse of the Slovak State, he went to Argentina, several western European countries, then settled in Austria. Subsequently he went to Germany under the sponsorship of ZIPPER. Slovak statehood is his primary interest and he will do most anything to promote that end. In so far as cooperation with the United States is concerned, he is not considered reliable.

6. At the risk of repeating some information already known to the Mission and some of the pertinent background summary of information on Ferdinand DURCANSKY set out above and which follows may be relevant to matters involving HAB-602 and HAB-1500.

7. NSIA-5740 dated 21 March 1951 notes that the source of the ZIPPER report which included as an attachment the report set forth below had connections with the leading personalities in the Czech and Slovakian emigrant groups and is a personal friend of Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY. The Chief of Station, submitting the report indicated that although not in a position to assess the report, previous experience with ZIPPER PRCHALA reports and the flavor of the account indicates that it is biased (in DURCANSKY's favor). The account is set forth as follows:

Report on the Slovakian Committee for Liberation  
(slowakische Befreiungskomitee) and the  
Slovakian National Council

The Slovakian Emigration

In order to judge the so-called Slovakian emigration in Europe and overseas, consideration must be given to several questions, without knowledge of which it is impossible to place in logical inter-relationship the various matters connected with the entire European emigration:

Within the Slovakian emigration are two main groups:

- a) The Slovakian Committee for Liberation, created and led by Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY.
- b) The Slovakian National Council, created and led by Dr. Karel SIDOR.

SECRET

Both Dr. BURČANSKY and Dr. SIDOR have been marked figures in Slovakian politics for the last twenty years. Both personalities played a decisive role in the genesis of the independent Slovakian state (14 March 1939).

The positions taken by these two Slovakian politicians in their fight for the freedom of their people were different. Although Dr. BURČANSKY was a thoroughly convinced follower of the HLINA Guard and a leading exponent of the Catholic student youth movement founded by Peter HLINA (which gradually gathered together in the so-called Nastup Circle), he can be adjudged as a great realist in politics, possessed of great clarity which permitted him to yield in superficial matters (including German suggestions about the establishing of the Slovakian state). The dispute of BURČANSKY, in the summer of 1940 (?) with HITLER and RIBBENTROP at Oberwolfberg, which led to his resignation as Foreign Minister, Minister of the Interior, and Deputy Minister President, proves that this elasticity was not without limits and that the frequently raised accusation of pro-Communism does not have too much significance. Dr. BURČANSKY was and is a Slovakian, above all else; he rejected the Pan-Slavic ideas, which had also been growing within Slovakia for thirty years, although he was also convinced of the necessity for cooperation among all peoples in Middle Europe.

Dr. Karol SIDOR was frequently named by Peter HLINA, in his political testament, as his successor to leadership of the Slovakian state. SIDOR has certain definite conceptions which, for some time, were made the basis for charges of treason against his people. At the decisive hour he at least "played cards" with HENKS about the founding of the Slovakian state, and for this reason he was not included in the first cabinet of that state. Instead he was sent to Rome as Slovakian representative at the Vatican and there played an important part until 1945. (He was, however, frequently attacked on the grounds that he failed to represent the conception of an independent Slovakia). Although SIDOR is anti-communistic and was the esteemed co-worker of Peter HLINA, leader of the Slovakian people until 1939, he entertains pan-Slavic concepts. His pro-Polish political attitudes occasioned much distrust of him in German political circles. He never made a secret of being pro-Polish, and it is not remarkable that this tendency is strong in him today. Before his eyes there is always an image of a Greater Slavic State, grouped around Poland, which would disassociate itself from Bolshevism in the East, which would move toward a confederative framework taking in all Czechs and Slovians in the West and Southwest, and which would at least maintain close ties with the Catholic section of the Southern Slavs (Croats and Slovaks). For the formulation of his present ideas the concept of a block of Catholic states under the leadership of Poland, and including Hungary in this area of Slavic influence, is decisive. The extent to which he is working under the auspices of the Vatican cannot be determined from here.

These variant positions of the two leaders of the Slovakian emigre-

tion in Europe and America is not only the result of differing hypotheses imbedded in the structure of their movements but also has variant practical effects within Slovakia today. The Pan-Slavic concept and the pro-Polish political attitude were always espoused, for the most part, by the Slovakian intelligentsia, who feared and rejected Bolshevism but who recognized that it would not suffice to protect only the Czechs. Because Russia was "pining away" under Bolshevism, they turned their eyes toward the (then) free Poles. Because only the intelligentsia were here concerned, the number of persons moving in this intellectual-political direction (the SIDOR concept) was small. Dr. DURCANSKY, on the other hand, has many more followers and ties to the Slovakian people. DURCANSKY has rejected the SIDOR concept, because all brother-states of Slovakia, much like the Czechs, have seen this territory only as a source of booty. The logic of this attitude can also be seen in the annexation by the Poles of certain parts of Slovakia (Orava and Javorina) in 1938.

It may be true that SIDOR has today the support of the majority of the intellectuals. DURCANSKY, however, can count on the support of all those who today stand in closest contact, shoulder-to-shoulder, with the Slovakian homeland and people, who, in the majority, wish for nothing more earnestly than the reconstitution of an independent Slovakian state associated with a new middle-European group of states freed from the influence of Bolshevism.

#### History of Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY until 1945

Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY was born on 18 December 1906 in Rajec, Slovakia. His father, Juraj DURCANSKY, a farmer-delegate to various regional bodies and enthusiastic co-worker of the leading Slovakian fighter and leader of the people, Peter HLIVKA, appeared in the former battle within the CSR as a senator representing the Hlinka Slovakian People's Party, H.S.L.S. The Vatican held the father in especially high esteem because of his upright stand in matters concerning the defense of the Catholic Church in Slovakia. After graduating from the Gymnasium, Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY attended the University of Bratislava, the Sorbonne in Paris, and in Der Haag, until he returned to Bratislava and completed the work on his doctorate. For a time he worked as an assistant on the faculty of law in the University of Bratislava. But the Czech government made it impossible for him to make representations to acquire the right of giving lectures at the university as a qualified teacher (by a decision of the Ministry of Information in Prague). Only after the upheaval in 1939 was Dr. DURCANSKY able to acquire this right and give lectures as an instructor (Privatdozent) on international law in the University of Bratislava.

While a student he took an active part in student affairs. He was esteemed as the co-founder of the Catholic People's Party and brought together certain circles of young Slovakian students in the organization called "Nastup". Together with his brother, Dr. Jan DURCANSKY, born 16 February 1902 in Rajec, lawyer and front-line fighter in the HLIVKA Party and HLIVKA Movement, and notary public in Bratislava, Dr. Ferdinand

DURGANSKY brought out the newspaper "Nastup", which played a decisive role with the younger Slovakian generation as the printed expression of their will to fight for an independent Slovakia through propagation of the idea of autonomy.

After 6 October 1938 Dr. Ferdinand DURGANSKY, who was still governed by Prague, became the Minister of Justice for the autonomous Slovakia. On 14 March 1939 he also became Foreign Minister for Slovakia, and in October 1939 he was entrusted with the leadership of the Slovakian Ministry of the Interior. At the same time he became deputy minister president and thus concentrated in his own hands a great deal of political power. The accusations of his opponents were raised very soon; to the German office concerned false information was supplied, charging that DURGANSKY was working on both sides of the street and constantly maintaining contacts with hostile powers. It is true that the connections of DURGANSKY to compatriots in America never were terminated.

Because of an emotional conference with HITLER and RIEBENTROP at Gherlesberg, Dr. DURGANSKY was barely able to escape arrest. All of his offices were taken from him (in 1940?) and, under close observation, he went back to Bratislava and resumed his legal practice and private business (building up his interests in Slovakian industry - chemical works in Leopoldov).

Dr. Ferdinand DURGANSKY's Life and Political Work since 1945

Along with many other Slovakian politicians and personalities of Slovakian public life, Dr. DURGANSKY moved westward as the Russians marched in from the east. He first went to Krammuntster, where the Slovakian government, with Dr. TISO, remained until shortly before the advent of the American troops. As DURGANSKY moved further west, an American office impounded a drug (which, to my own knowledge, was morphium) that he had taken from his own chemical properties in Leopoldov and that was his personal property. Part of this drug was returned to him by the Americans. Meanwhile the Czechs had gotten out a warrant naming Dr. DURGANSKY a war-criminal, so that he had to disappear into an illegal existence. In 1945/1946 he kept changing his residence from Switzerland to Italy to France. At the first conference, in 1946, Dr. DURGANSKY supplied three memoranda, even though the police were close behind him. These memoranda supported the re-creation of an independent Slovakian state and concerned the following questions:

I. Legal continuity of an independent Slovakian state (Dr. TUKA, in his fight against Hungary and the Czechs, had used the same argument and had supported it factually).

II. Necessity for concluding a peace treaty with Slovakia to normalize the relationships between states.

III. Conducting a plebiscite within the former Slovakian republic. In this way substance would be given to the desire of the Slovakian people for an independent state.

At the end of 1946 or the beginning of 1947 Dr. DURCANSKY went to Argentina, partly to shake off his persecutors and partly in the hope that he would have more success in proselytizing for the Slovakian concept in America. (The conference in Paris, at the wish of President BENES, had not concerned itself with the memoranda which DURCANSKY submitted.) He took up residence in Buenos Aires, where to this date can be found the headquarters of the so-called Slovakian Committee for Liberation. At the same time he is making efforts to establish a secret transmitter to build up and support the efforts of his compatriots at home to fight Bolshevism. The secret transmitter has the name "Barcelona".

#### DURCANSKY and SIDOR

In 1945 Dr. DURCANSKY looked up Dr. SIDOR in Rome, to win SIDOR over to an active fight in the homeland and to the idea of an independent Slovakia. SIDOR declined with the explanation, "The idea of an independent Slovakia has been so discredited by association with the defense pact with the German Reich that one cannot be a representative of such a conception. One must seek another concept, by means of which, perhaps, common cause can be made with Poland. But the time is also not ripe for this idea. All that can be done now is to try to persuade the Allies not to deliver to the Czechs the leading figures of the former Slovakian state (insofar as this has not happened already). Moreover, one must concentrate now on giving social help to the young, post-1945, Slovakian political emigration." DURCANSKY opposed this concept with his suggestion for creating a political organization which would convince the rest of the world of the good qualities of Slovakia. DURCANSKY founded the so-called "Slovakian Organization Office", to which SIDOR was to give only monetary help, because SIDOR still had charge of state funds accrued during the period of Slovakian independence and intended for protection against an eventual endangering of independent Slovakia through the outcome of the war. (The principal purpose of this fund was to provide the means to renew, if need be, the fight for Slovakian independence.) SIDOR refused this help. Thereupon DURCANSKY turned to the highly esteemed and financially strong "Slovakian League" in America; but the League was on the side of SIDOR and had been instructed by him to make only slight financial support available to DURCANSKY, because SIDOR recognized very clearly the growing influence of his rival of former times. In this connection it should be pointed out that it was naturally easy for SIDOR, because of his work with the Vatican, to maintain uninterrupted contact with America. It is interesting that SIDOR had also taken his stand against an independent Slovakia in his publications in the U.S.A. and had always (including the period during the war) represented instead the concept of a merger with Poland.

#### The Founding of the Slovakian National Committee and the Slovakian Committee for Liberation

In December 1948 Dr. Karel SIDOR founded the "Slovakian National Council Abroad." This was the first experience of the Slovakian emigra-

tion with a widespread organization and far-flung organizational net. Headquarters was established in Rome, where the organization was financially supported by the funds mentioned above and also by the growing contributions of the Slovaks in America, the "Slovakian League". Since then SIDOR has emigrated to Canada, where a part of the Slovakian intelligentsia has gathered around him. In this fashion it may be that Canada has taken the leadership away from the headquarters in Rome. As representatives abroad SIDOR chose the following:

Rome - Dr. Karol SIDOR

London - Dr. FRIDAVOK (announcer with the Czechoslovakian radio in London during the war. Later held decisively aloof from the Czechoslovakian government-in-exile. Is still thought of today in certain Slovakian circles as not wholly dependable).

Argentina - Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

Germany - Dr. Josef PAUGG - last chief editor of the principal paper of the Klinka Slovakian People's Party, the Slovak.

Meanwhile, however, Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY had already created his "Slovakian Committee of Liberation". From his standpoint, accordingly, he does not recognize the priority or precedence of the National Council of SIDOR and supports the following changes:

The committee is to be composed of 75 representatives.

Of these, 25 are to come from the National Council of SIDOR.

25 are to come from the Committee of Liberation of DURCANSKY.

25 are to be freely elected.

A recognized personality, a member of neither group, to be chairman of the committee.

This suggestion was refused by SIDOR for enlightening reasons.

When Dr. PAUGG left Germany in 1949, SIDOR named Dr. HGLY his successor. But HGLY also emigrated, to Australia. Since that date (1950) the former Slovakian consul in Berlin, Dr. Metas CERNAK, has been recognized as leader for Germany. In addition, the following have joined SIDOR's ranks: Dr. Konstantin GULEN, who from 1946 on was interned by the Americans in various camps; and Dr. (Mrs) GAVOJA, former secretary of the minister-president Dr. TUSA, who was interned by the Americans and released in 1947 and who lived in the Tyrol until 1949 or 1950, when he emigrated to Canada.

The following persons, among others, belong to the Slovakian Committee of Liberation:

SECRET

HAB-W-1587  
Page 8

South America (chiefly Argentina) - Dr. Jan DURCANSKY, brother of  
Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

Amu BILONG (Slovakian writer)

Professor Amu MESTAR

Lt. Col. Amu LEDNICKY (chaplain)

Dr. Amu ONERUSKA (successor to Dr. KARVAS with the MEZ).

Dr. ZATKO (writer; pseudonyms "Bor").

London

Engineer Igor BAZOVSKY

Oktav BAZOVSKY (these two are the two youngest brothers of the  
gifted Slovakian BAZOVSKY family).

USA

Professor Amu BARTEK (former chief of the Slovakian statistical  
office)

Dr. Amu BRAUNNECKER

Germany - Dr. Gabor POKORNY

After the Slovakian secret transmitter "Barcelona" was set up, Dr.  
P. DURCANSKY arranged for putting a second station in business. Formerly  
this second station transmitted twice a week; since January 1951 it has  
broadcasts thrice weekly. Among broadcasting times are Tuesdays and Fri-  
days at 1245 hours on a short wave band of 4.8 m.

Dr. P. DURCANSKY is presently travelling in the U.S. and Canada. He  
intends to return to Europe in the spring of 1951 and to settle permanently  
in Paris or London.

The Political Concepts of DURCANSKY and BUDGE

DURCANSKY has always favored the concept of an independent Slovakia.  
Should the time make such a plan now impractical, then he pleads the cause  
of an independent Middle European federation of the Slovakian people,  
grouped into one state.

Because of its political position the Slovakian Committee of Libera-  
tion has good connections with the following international organizations  
(among others):

SECRET

SECRET

HAB-W-1587  
Page 9

"Anti-bolshevistic Bloc of Nations" (AEN), the largest international anti-bolshevistic organization.

"Organization for Moral Rearmament"

"Scottish League for European Freedom"

"American Friends of Slovakian Freedom"

There are also good connections with the movement of General de GAULLE.

SIDOR, true to his old principles, works chiefly with circles of Polish anti-bolshevistic emigrants. He represents his old plan: creating a Slavic confederation grouped around Poland and including Czechs and Slovaks as well as cooperation with Croats and Slovenes. SIDOR also favors international cooperation of the Slovakian National Council with the Central European Federalists Club.

SIDOR also favors a Polish eastern border based on that created after the first world war and a western boundary at the Oder and Neisse.

8. The following is a summary of information dated 20 September 1950 on Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY aka Hander VILCKI which was made available to the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service:

a. Reference is made to a telephone query made by Mr. PELOS on 15 August 1950 with regard to Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, former Slovak Foreign Minister and now leader of the Slovak Liberation Committee, rival Slovak separatist organization to Karel SIDOR's Slovak National Council who is at present reported to be living in Buenos Aires.

b. The following statements concerning Dr. DURCANSKY came from "Who's Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe, Excluding France", published in May 1944:

Slovak politician. Born circa 1906. Son of Senator Jura; DURCANSKY, representative of the Slovak People's (HLIKKA) Party in the Czechoslovak Senate. As a student was a fervent partisan of Slovak-Hungarian Union. Started his career as unknown lawyer. Studied in Paris and Berlin, where he made intimate contacts with Hitler Youth leaders. On his return to Czechoslovakia, he founded the monthly "Nastup" with Nazi aid. First came into prominence as Minister of Justice in the Slovak autonomous government founded October 1938 (after Munich). Later was obliged by Czechoslovak opposition to flee to Vienna, where he violently attacked the Czechoslovak Republic. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and became Minister of Interior

070977

SECRET

HAB-W-1587  
Page 10

in the first independent Slovak Government, 14 March 1939. Suddenly dismissed in September 1941; reported to be on demand of the Germans who were playing off the groups of TUKA (Dr. Vojtech -- advocate of Czechoslovak-Hungarian union) and HACH (Sano -- advocate of Slovak-Great-Rumanian affiliation) against that of DURCANSKY. Article in "Slovak", March 1943, accused the Slovaks of inciting anti-Czech feeling.

c. According to a report dated 9 October 1946, the source of which was Dr. Vojtech KRAJCOVIC, now chairman of the National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia, an emigre political group in the United States (note: presumably an affiliate of DURCANSKY's own organization), Dr. DURCANSKY was formerly a professor of international law at the University of Bratislava and was Slovak Foreign Minister in 1939, in which capacity he signed a treaty of friendship with Hitler under duress. According to KRAJCOVIC, he was dismissed by the pre-Hitler government in Slovakia because of his desire to establish contacts with England and France. According to a report dated October 1944 he was formerly in the HLIVKA Guard.

d. Information was received in January 1946 that Dr. DURCANSKY had arrived in Rome with his wife and two children and that he had gone into hiding. In April 1947 the Czechoslovak Government under President BENEŠ requested the extradition of Dr. DURCANSKY from Italy for trial in Czechoslovakia as a war criminal. The request was refused since the Italo-Czech treaty of 1921 was not applicable to political criminals. In August 1947 (note: pre-Communist coup) Major Josef RUPRICH, then First Secretary at the Czechoslovak Legation in Rome and a representative of the Ministry of Interior, was assigned the mission of locating Dr. DURCANSKY and kidnapping him for the Czechoslovak Government. This attempt was unsuccessful, however.

e. While in Rome Dr. DURCANSKY was reported to be cooperating with Hungarians in the framework of the INTERMARIUM Movement, a European federalist organization composed of various dissident elements -- Poles, Hungarians, Slovenes, Slovaks, etc., which is rightist and nationalistic in character.

f. According to a report dated 25 March 1947, DURCANSKY left Rome in December 1946 and was in hiding near Rome in Frascati where he is alleged to have stayed at the Jesuit Monastery and in nearby Crottaferrata where he lived at the College for Oriental Priests. In March 1946 he returned to Rome and was reported to be staying in the Vatican as a guest of a postal employee of the Vatican mail service. A report dated June 1947 from a source whose reliability is unknown stated that he was making regular radio broadcasts to Slovakia from either Austria or Italy. A Prague newspaper item originating in Vienna on 18 June 1947 stated that DURCANSKY's news broadcasts had gone off the air now that he was living in Salzburg as a privileged DP and that the broadcasts originated somewhere in Southern Austria.

g. After the abortive mission to kidnap him mentioned in paragraph d above, he is alleged to have escaped to Spain. The American Embassy in Prague stated in a cable dated 8 November 1947 that a Communist official in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Embassy that DURGANSKI had left Italy for Argentina in October 1947. A State Department cable dated 22 December 1947 was dispatched to all stations to submit to the Department any application for visa facilities which might be made by DURGANSKI, as well as whether any visa facilities had already been issued to him by a Consulate. A request for a visa was submitted to the American Consulate General in Naples on 13 January by DURGANSKI.

h. A report dated 26 December 1946 stated that DURGANSKI had arrived in Argentina (date not given) under the name Rander VILCEK. It was further reported that he had, under this name, invested in ALAQUINUS ARGENTINUS, S. A., a factory in Buenos Aires for the production of morphine according to a process discovered by one Nicolas BATHIER.

i. A FBIS report dated 24 March 1948 stated that the Czechoslovak Government had that day filed a formal petition via its diplomatic offices for the extradition from Argentina of DURGANSKI. The Argentine Government refused the Czechoslovak Government's request to extradite him. In April 1948 it was reported that he was interested in coming to the United States and that he was then in the process of attempting to find some person who would recommend him for a U.S. visa or who would make arrangements for him at the American Consulate in Buenos Aires. It may have been for this reason that sometime later, August 1949, he offered to turn over information to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. He at this time, claimed that he wished to turn over information since his organization, Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, had been suspended by the Argentine police.

j. Concerning the Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, a report dated 11 July 1949 states that one Father Virgilio FILIPPO, an Argentine priest and National Deputy, together with Bruno KESZICH, former Uruguayan Minister and DURGANSKI, initiated the formation of this committee about a year previously with the support and backing of the United, Alexander TRANKOV's Bulgarian followers, Mircea ARGIUZENSKI, Milan STAMINOVICH, Leon IBERRIAL, followers of Petain and Italian Fascist groups. Its nature is anti-imperialist, anti-Communist, and anti-colonial.

k. A report dated 2 December 1948 stated that DURGANSKI had been effective in penetrating Slovak Communist groups in Buenos Aires and that he had allegedly reported the names of such individuals to the Argentine police. In September 1948 there was an unconfirmed report that the Slovak Communists have helped the Slovak separatists in dispatching clandestinely a courier from Czechoslovakia with the mission of contacting DURGANSKI, now living in Buenos Aires and recognized head of the Slovak separatists. According to this report the courier was to represent both the separatists and the Communists in mapping a common plan of action.

1. A report was received in July 1949 from a fairly reliable source that Fascist inmates of the Leopoldo State Prison in Slovakia were planning their hopes for eventual release on the influence of DURČANSKY.

2. In June 1948 it was reported that a meeting of delegates from various refugee camps in Germany of DURČANSKY followers was held in Frankfurt on 12 June 1948. An illegal underground route to South America, via France and Spain, is said to have been an item of discussion. The group's British address was given as London Str. 11, 5th Floor, telephone 40946.

3. A report from a source of unknown reliability dated 14 July 1949 stated that DURČANSKY had lost considerable prestige, especially among the more recent Slovak arrivals in Argentina, to Dr. Karel SIDOR, the subject of recent controversial discussion within Czech and Slovak groups in the United States. One of the reasons for this loss of prestige is said to be DURČANSKY's outward attachment toward Earl Warren and Fernan followers. He is further stated by the source of this report to be violently anti-Semitic and anti-U.S.

4. According to July 1950 issues of the New York Daily Herald, Reverend Rudolf BILLIG is DURČANSKY's representative in the United States. The 30 July 1950 issue reports that simultaneous lectures by BILLIG and Dr. SIDOR had led to open blistering on pages of the Slovak separatist press, but that the fight has been somewhat dampened by Walter Marshall's campaign against both separatist leaders.

5. A source of unknown reliability has stated that it is his opinion that the retention of General Mikulas FERENCIK on Ellis Island for three months in 1949 on charges of being a Communist might be the work of the DURČANSKY separatist group. It will be recalled that General FERENCIK was cleared of these charges and admitted to the United States on 4 November 1949, following an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

6. A report dated November 1950 on the political activities of Ferdinand DURČANSKY, from a representative of the group of democratic Slovaks at the Camp Vaux is as follows:

1. Political activity until March 14, 1938.

Dr. Ferdinand DURČANSKY was born on December 16, 1906 in Bajso. He became deputy for the "Workers Struggle" (People's Party) - BSLS - in the Czechoslovak Parliament. The members of the first Slovak autonomous government, appointed by the central government in Prague, headed by Dr. Benes, were: for the BSLS - Dr. Ferdinand DURČANSKY, OSRBAK for the agrarian party and TRPANSKY and LITNER. This event took place in Prague on October 7, 1938.

DURČANSKI together with TISO, MACH and the rest of the Slovak fascist personalities, approved on February 8, 1938 the agreement about a mutual course of the HSIS and the SNP (Sudetendeutsche Partei). This agreement was signed by Andrej HLIVKA with K. H. FRANK, Arnost KUBUR and Ing. Fr. KARHASTIN, the leader of the Slovak Germans. Into this agreement was also incorporated the united Hungarian party of Esterhazy. Immediately after the Anschluss of Austria DURČANSKI and MACH negotiated in Vienna with the Sudetendeutsche Reichsbund through Rudolf VAVRAJ the purpose of these negotiations being the destruction of Czechoslovakia. He also took part in the organizing of a mass rally of the HSIS in Bratislava on June 5, 1938, during which the agreement of alliance was proclaimed between the USRN and Czechoslovakia. He prepared a memorandum for the immediate creation of a Slovak autonomy which was sent to Lord RUCKELMAN, with the knowledge that this will harm the international position of Czechoslovakia. In July 1938 they were among the founders of the "Hitlerov garda" into which they incorporated (as a cadre) members of the former anti-state organization "Tvara's Rodolovans". In summer 1938 they sent to Prague deputy Stefan BANSIK as a permanent representative of the HSIS. BANSIK was also active as the liaison man between the HSIS and the leaders of HENKLIKIN's party. On September 19, 1938, upon the request of the German minister for Foreign Affairs, RIBBENTROP, DURČANSKI agreed with the proposal to present to the constitutional authorities of Czechoslovakia such radical demands which would bring about a change of the democratic institutions of the republic (Dr. HENES) and also unfulfillable requests to Prime minister Dr. HODZA. Together with TISO, MACH and the others they called a meeting of the executive committee of the HSIS for October 5 and 6, 1938 to Zilina, where a plan was worked out on the basis of which they forced the transfer of government and executive power and later also the legislative power to Slovakia. Immediately after October 6, 1938 they dissolved the communist party, the Social democratic party and forbade the activity of the Slovak National party. The other parties (agrarians, tradesman party etc.) merged with the HSIS. By official decree they allowed the activity of the Hitlerov garda and armed Tvara's Rodolovans. All the properties of the dissolved gymnastic associations were transferred to the Hitlerov garda. He took part in the holding of elections on December 18, 1938 into the Slovak autonomous Parliament according to the pattern of Weimar and bolshevism (one party without opposition). In the press and radio he provoked hatred and antagonism against the Jews. In October 1938 DURČANSKI and MACH visited SERS-INGHART in Vienna and the following day Herman GOERING in Berlin, where they presented the request that Germany should aid Slovakia to break away from Czechoslovakia. At this occasion they promised that an independent Slovakia would be in close cooperation with Germany in military, political and economic matters. On October 28, 1938 they discussed the same matter in London together with TISO and RIBBENTROP. Later they conferred also with other German and Croatian fascists. In October 1938 they asked the request of Hungary about sending that of fascist Italy to decide about the request of Hungary about sending some Czechoslovak territory. He took part with TISO and Ing. KIRO (the representative of the Prague government - Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in the discussions with the Hungarians at Komarno, with the Hungarian minister of Foreign Affairs - KAHUL. Following this the entire southern part of Slovakia was ceded to Hungary on November 2, 1938.

In February 1939, behind the back of the official Prague Government, DUBČANSKY and TISO, together with others, commenced direct preparations for the break with Czechoslovakia. They sent to Berlin a delegation of economic and political officials for the purpose of working out with GOERING the conditions of economic cooperation between Slovakia and Germany. Together with HACH they persuaded Judo\v{r}i\v{t} MOTVNANSKY to stop up the attacks against Czechoslovakia within the framework of the Slovak broadsheet from Vienna and to prove that it is impossible for Czechs and Slovaks to cooperate in one national state and stress the importance to create an independent Slovak state. During the first half of March 1939, when the Germans were organizing unrests and disturbances on the territory of the II. Republic, JERGENBAY by his written steps and political demands brought about such an internal political situation between March 9-12, 1939, that it was easy for the German officials to make use of it militarily and politically to take measures against Czechoslovakia. Together with HACH they called to Slovakia groups of trained German terrorists who were supposed to execute attempts on the lives of political officials of the opposition. They took charge and accepted from the Germans explosives at Petrvalka, which were later used. On March 10, 1939 - (immediately after March 7 when the Prague government and Tiso's autonomous government were dissolved) DUBČANSKY went to Vienna and in broadsheet exhorted the nation to resistance against Czechoslovakia and the Hitler's power. He ordered them to accept only his requests and to take over the power. The same day he made arrangements for Hitler to send his plenipotentiary to Bratislava to discuss the break of Slovakia from Czechoslovakia. He also sent his memorandum in which he protested in the name of the Slovak government against the steps taken by the official government in Prague and asked for assistance of the German government for an independent Slovakia. On March 13, 1939 DUBČANSKY and TISO had discussions in Berlin with HINSHENTRUP, Hitler and others about the break of Slovakia from Czechoslovakia.

## II. Activities during the existence of the Slovak state.

After the proclamation of the so-called independent Slovak state on March 14, 1939 by the Slovak Parliament, Dr. Ferdinand DUBČANSKY accepted the function of minister of interior. He brought about the abandonment of the democratic system in Slovakia which resulted in the creation of a dictator-like regime in Slovakia, on the pattern of the Nazi regime and the almost cooperation with Nazi-Germany. On March 17, 1939 he signed an agreement with Hungary about cession of a part of southern Slovakia to Hungary. DUBČANSKY and TISO agreed that the Germans should disarm by force all Slovak military garrisons in western Slovakia and that the German army should take charge of the military factories at Dolina and Porvaska Bystrica. They also agreed that the German army should take over and transport to Germany all military material, weapons, gasolins, automobiles etc. in the value of over 2 billions Kcs, which considerably increased the stocks of the German army and decreased the Slovak national property. They also gave their consent for German consultant to be appointed to the Ministry of National Defense in the form of a military mission. In August 1939 they completed discussions

SECRET

HAB-W-1587

Page 15

and TISO finally signed an agreement about the so-called defense zone in western Slovakia which rendered Germany outstanding assistance for the future conduct of the war against Poland and the USSR. Between March 18 and 23, 1939 DURCANSKY met with Herman GOERRING and signed an agreement with him about economic and political cooperation and inter-state payments between the so-called Protectorate Bohemia - Moravia and Slovakia.

In 1940 he took part at an agreement whereby Slovakia undertook to send workers to Germany (100,000 - 120,000 persons), who were forced to work in the Third Reich in different cities under dangerous conditions. It is necessary to add that the Slovak state accepted the obligation to pay in Slovak currency at home whatever the workers could save in Germany, out of funds of the National bank.

DURCANSKY as a member of the government of the Slovak state gave his consent together with others to reconstruct state highways, bridges and railroads so that they could serve Germany for military purposes and transport of material and personnel for their attack against Yugoslavia and Greece in 1941. He also participated in the military preparations against the western allies and the USSR. He agreed to send against the USSR a corps in the strength of 2 divisions (fast and technical) and together with others declared war on the USA on December 12, 1941 and also on Great Britain. He was also co-responsible that Slovakia signed the "Three power pact".

DURCANSKY ardently camouflaged the true facts and declared, especially during the time of the Slovak uprising in 1944-1945, that the Slovak state is independent, praised Adolf HITLER, the German Reich, uttered slander against the western powers and their government institutions. Already then, when it was clear to every one that the fall of Nazi Germany and consequently that of the so-called Slovak state is imminent, he began to make speeches emphasizing the unacceptance of a renewal of a Czechoslovak state and praised and defended the idea of a Slovak state.

In this period Dr. DURCANSKY was also guilty, as minister of foreign affairs, that he took part in the crushing of the Slovak uprising, when thousands of persons were liquidated by the HG, PCNG and by the Germans, without any court procedure. Together with the chief of the propaganda office - F. J. GASPAR he conducted a propaganda in the press and on the radio and through leaflets against the insurgents, branding them as traitors, bandits and criminals. They tried to persuade the insurgent soldiers to desert and also signed an agreement in secrecy whereby Slovakia supplied the German army and this action caused a loss of some 7 billion Kcs to the Slovak nation.

In the spring of 1945 DURCANSKY agreed with other Slovak fascist leaders that he will continue abroad his efforts about preserving or renewing the Slovak state and the government of the HSLR within its frame. DURCANSKY's task was to organize abroad diplomatic and military actions. On April 3, 1945 Dr. DURCANSKY, TISO, MACH, Franco

SECRET

SECRET

HAB-8-1587

Page 16

TISO, Stefan TISO and others left Slovakia and proceeded to Austria (Krammünster).

16. According to a statement dated 19 March 1951 from a source whose reliability is unknown but who is believed to be close to members of the PRCHALIA movement in Germany, ties of the PRCHALIA Group (Czech National Council) with the Slovak National Council Abroad (SNRVZ - Slovenska Narodni Rada U Zahranicni), headed by Karol SIDUR, and to the SOV - Slovensky Oslobodivaci Vybor of Ferdinand DURCANSKY, are entirely friendly and there is close cooperation in various sectors.

The British reported the following on 1 March 1951:

"2. DURCANSKY arrived in the U.K. by air from Zurich on 14 September 1950 to stay two or three weeks with Igor BAZOVSKI, the vice - president and organizer of the British Branch of the Slovak Liberation Committee, and to contact the Scottish League for European Freedom. The latter is a right-wing anti-Communist organization which interests itself in Central European emigre problems in this country. Its activities are directed by John F. STEWART from Edinburgh. Upon arrival, DURCANSKY stated that he was attached to a passive resistance movement in connection with Communist-dominated countries. He also said he was later to attend conferences sponsored by the Moral Re-Armament Group (Dr. BUCHANAN's Oxford Group) in Switzerland, France, and Italy. DURCANSKY was travelling on an Argentinian document of identity No. 6246 issued at Buenos Aires on 27 June 1950, and was described as "Director of chemical factory". He was born at Bajec, Czechoslovakia, on 18 December 1906. He was at one time Slovak Foreign Minister in the Tiso Government, and at the end of 1945 together with a small group of Slovaks, fled before the arrival of the Russian Army from Slovakia. These emigres met in Rome, where they formed the Slovak Action Committee, and later DURCANSKY, with a number of others, went to South America and settled in Buenos Aires. It is reported that after a meeting in New York in 1949, the scope of the Slovak Action Committee was widened to include representatives of four Slovak political parties and was renamed the Slovak Liberation Committee with DURCANSKY as its chairman. The headquarters of this group is at Buenos Aires but branches are reported to have been established in the U.S.A., France, Spain and Germany, Italy and England. Its aim is to achieve Slovak independence and it is as strongly opposed to any form of Czechoslovak Government as it is to Communism. Its propaganda is conducted through a monthly journal called "Slovenska Republika" printed in Slovakian language in Buenos Aires.

3. The British section of the Slovak Liberation Committee came into being in June 1949 and its principal organizer is Igor BAZOVSKI. Most of its members are E.M.M.'s who have arrived in England during two and a half years. This group is anti-Communist, pro-German and Anti-Semitic; it can be described as pro-Hungary but has very few supporters and it is not regarded with favor by a number of Slovak separatists in this country.

SECRET

SECRET

HAB-W-1587  
Page 17

4. Dr. DURCANSKY left the U.K. by air for Montreal on 14 December 1950 and has not returned here since. It is believed that he was in touch in London with Peter FRIDAVOK, Secretary General of the rival Slovak separatist organization, the Slovak National Council Abroad, with a view to bringing about a reconciliation between the two rival groups."

11. MOIA-6064, dated 11 April 1951 notes that prior to 1 February 1951, the Director of the DURCANSKY party in Germany had forbidden all DURCANSKY followers in Western Germany to engage in IS work, upon threat of expulsion from the party. On 1 February 1951 the Director agreed in principle to commitment of DURCANSKY members in Western Germany for intelligence purposes.

12. A CIO report dated 1 July 1952, from the 430th CIC Detachment, sub-Detachment "B", Linz reports as follows:

The following information was obtained on 16 June 1952 by this agent from Informant 6030, who in turn had obtained the information during the course of a conversation with Erich KERNMAYER:

The former Slovakian Minister of Culture, Professor Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, recently paid a number of visits to Erich KERNMAYER in Gmunden, Upper Austria. Dr. DURCANSKY, who recently arrived in Austria from South America, allegedly stated that very little sympathy for the United States is to be found in Argentina. The present policy of the United States towards the South American countries is fostering a tension which may develop into difficult complications. DURCANSKY is anxious to enlist the aid of Erich KERNMAYER as KERNMAYER possesses excellent personal contacts among the Slovaks residing in Austria. Within the near future, DURCANSKY is scheduled to take an official vacation in Gmunden, but in reality he will utilize the occasion to formulate the exact methods to be employed between DURCANSKY and KERNMAYER for future joint operations. DURCANSKY is allegedly employed by some unknown American agency.

SECRET

A short time ago Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL approached DURCANSKY in Lienz, Upper Austria, and introduced himself as the representative of a German office. Anxious to enlist the aid of DURCANSKY, HOETTL stated that he was looking for qualified, trustworthy Slovaks who would be trained by him and be well paid for their services. These people would be employed to obtain political and military information from the Eastern Zone of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. HOETTL stated that he is kept busy in Lienz maintaining contact with agents who have been assigned to Czechoslovakia and Vienna. HOETTL told DURCANSKY to think the proposal over carefully and then write an answer to his (HOETTL's) co-worker, Baron Harry Mast, Post Office Box 330, Main Post Office, Lienz, Upper Austria. (C-3)

FILE CHANGE:

The files of this Sub-Attachment disclosed the following information: AR. 1/24/31, dated 10 January 1952, Subject: REINERT, Michael - Meeting in Gmunden, states that Emil von Tengel told the interviewing Agent that he (Tengel) is an informant for Baron Harry Mast, Lienz, Bethlehemstrasse 1, who is believed to be an intelligence operative for an American Intelligence Agency in Germany.

Ferdinand DURCANSKY is listed in numerous reports as the former foreign minister in the cabinet of the Slovakian Puppet Government which collaborated with the Germans from 1940 to 1944. DURCANSKY is also mentioned as directing the formation of a Slovak Liberation Committee.

The files of this Sub-Attachment contain numerous references concerning Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL as an intelligence operator. In AR 9-12482, dated 22 January 1952, subject: HOETTL, Wilhelm, Dr. - Intelligence Peddler, HOETTL is described as a suspected Soviet Agent who travels between Austria and Italy.

12. In addition, it may be well to note TAB-1310 dated 2 December 1949, evaluated P-3 wherein it notes that although source has no information to the effect that DURCANSKY is working directly for the Argentine police, it appears that he is at least collaborating with them on Communist matters. The report also states "(Note: It will be recalled that some months ago the Argentine Government refused a request from the Czech Government that DURCANSKY be extradited as a war criminal)." --- Subsequently, as pointed out above, Ferdinand DURCANSKY traveled on Argentine documentation.

SECRET

1b. In view of the above information, and inasmuch as Friedman's brother Jim has been employed by the National Bureau of Migration of the Hungarian Government since January 1949 and in view of the relationship with Jim WEINSTEIN and HIGHMAN it is suggested that the letter be handled with discretion.

17 December 1954

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

WJ/PI/II

Acting Chief, WED

HIGHMAN-1 FILE

1 - XI

WJ/PI/II

EE/Slovak/  
EE/PI/Greek  
EE/PI/Germany  
EE/PI/Lapper

Acting Chief, WED

SECRET