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The following survey of the ~~movement~~ "Prchala" movement is based:

a. On information and opinions compiled from several usually reliable sources.

b. On ^{information obtained from} conversations with Major Maleady (Chief, CE section, Hq. 66th CIC), Captain Kennedy (Chief, Czech Desk, Hq 66th CIC), Captain Franks (CIC Region V, Regensburg) and CIC dossiers on the Prchala movement and ~~some of its~~ some of its leading personalities.

Considerable background information about the early stages of the movement has been included to give a fairly complete picture of ~~the~~ ^{the} development to its present status.

Present Status of the "Prchala" Movement ~~and its~~

1. At ^{the present} ~~this~~ time, the Prchala movement embraces about 250 Czechoslovakian emigrants in England and Western Germany. In England it is known as the "Ceský narodní výbor" (CNV - Czech National Committee) and in Germany as the "Ceska narodni skupina pro zapadni Nemecko" (CNS - Czech National Group for Western Germany). Most of the existing membership is located in DP camps in the American Occupation Zone. The general political orientation is ~~to be~~ ^{is} anti-Communist and tends to the right wing elements. Since the fall of 1950, it has been closely linked with Sudeten German interests. While it is difficult to assess ^{present and potential} ~~the importance and effectiveness of the movement at this~~ time, it can safely be said that ~~the~~ ^{its} membership and interest are not growing actively. ~~at this time.~~ ^{at this time.}

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Origin and Development of the PRCHALA Movement in England

2. In December 1940, Czech Army General Lev PRCHALA founded the "Ceskoslovenska narodni rada" (CSNR- Czechoslovak National Council) in London. The purpose of this organisation was to gather into one group all Czechoslovak non-Communist elements who were opposed to the policy of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile of Dr. Eduard BENEŠ. The CSNR did not have any ~~any~~ concrete political program except the negative one of hatred for President BENEŠ and the policy which he represented. The small active membership was recruited largely from members of ~~the~~ former rightist Czech and Slovak parties. PRCHALA ^{2 pg} was elected chairman of the council largely because it was hoped that his social popularity in British officer circles and his good relations with rightist Poles would gain effective support for the CSNR. However, PRCHALA had no talent for the leadership of a political organisation, and support from the British was not forthcoming. PRCHALA ~~was~~ was criticised by his own adherents, the CSNR weakened, and soon the membership was so small that each member had some official function in the council.

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3. In 1942, a separate Slovak group split from the original body under the leadership of Petr PRIVADOK. This split which occurred under pressure from Slovaks and rightist Poles resulted in two groups: the "Ceska narodni jednota" (CNJ - Czech National Unity), and the "Slovenska narodna rada" (SNR - Slovak National Council). In August 1942, both groups issued a proclamation affirming the principle of a separate and independent Slovak state.

4. After the BENES government refused any further discussion of Czech-Polish federation, following the outbreak of the Russo-German war, right wing Poles strongly supported and influenced PROHALA and PRIVADOK. The CNJ and SNR planned a program for a Czech-Slovak-Polish federation with the designation of "Union of Central European Nations". PROHALA and PRIVADOK attacked the USSR-CSR treaty of 1945 in an open letter to Anthony EDEN and denied the validity of the treaty. In December 1944, the CNJ changed its name to its present one of CNV and began to play down the federative aspects of its program in an effort to attract more Czechs. Leaders of the group at this time were: Chairman: Lev PROHALA, vice chairman: Dr. Karel LACHER and secretary: Vladimir JEZEK-BORIN. In April 1945, this newly constituted CNV was recognized by the Polish government-in-exile.

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5. On 16 May 1945, the CNV sent a memorandum to EDEN protesting the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet troops, and stating that the CNV now constituted the "only independent Czech political organization". A propaganda campaign was launched from England, directed against the Kosice program and the National Front government of BENEŠ. The British Press and the Polish emigre press were used for this purpose, combined with the smuggling of pamphlets into Czechoslovakia in UNRRA ~~parcels~~ parcels. This activity seems to have had no results other than to afford the Communists a pretext to arrest persons regarded as dangerous - alleging that they were PRCHALA adherents. After the February 1948 coup, the CNV recognized the fertile field for recruitment provided by the sudden exodus of refugees from Communist Czechoslovakia. It was decided to begin publication of their own magazine "Cesky boj" (The Czech Struggle). At the instigation of LEZAK-BORIN, it was decided to establish the CNS as a branch of the CNV in Germany.

General History of the PRCHALA Movement in Germany

6. The Czech National Group for Western Germany (CNS) was organized on 10 March 1948. The new organization was based on an established underground group known as "Třetí odboj" (Third rebellion) then operating in Germany under the leadership of Vladimír PEKELSKÝ. It was decided by the CNV in London that the CNS would have its headquarters in Munich and that PEKELSKÝ would be the chairman.

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a. The concentration of the CNV effort on the build-up of the CNS was natural, considering that the majority of ~~the~~ political refugees from Czechoslovakia remained in Germany for lengthy periods while awaiting further emigration possibilities. Among these refugees, especially at the outset, there were many persons of anti-BENEŠ and anti-Communist orientation who looked to the rightist parties-in-exile for a positive program of political action. The general line of CNS political propaganda was apparent from the "platform" which the CNV in London published on 1 May 1948 in ~~its~~ its magazine. Consisting mainly of general platitudes, it stressed the necessity for a continued fight for freedom, democracy and for guarantees that there would be little or no limitation on the right to hold private property. It also stated that the CNV would do all in its power to prevent the Czech nation from being forced into a betrayal of its western cultural heritage. It declared the CNV in favor of a central European federation in which the Czech state (without Slovakia) would be a full and equal member.

b. ~~PEKELSKI~~ The nerve center of the CNS was established in Munich where PEKELSKI set up his headquarters at Dachauerstraße 9. He, his secretary Marie ELASTOVICKOVA, and a former Czech journalist Bohumil HORAK constitute the "brains" of the CNS. Other centers of activity are located in installations housing Czech DPs.

c. PEKELSKI's major initial effort was in the propaganda field. The CNS has published at least eight newspapers or magazines at one time or another since its inception in 1948. None of the publications continued for more than a few issues, but "Bohemia", the most successful, resumed publication in June of 1951 after having been closed down in 1950. Lack of reader interest and financial backing caused the failure of these publications.

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7. In the fall of 1949, PEKELSKY had openly begun to effect a closer union with politically influential Sudeten Germans, many of whom he knew personally as a result of his wartime ^{stay} ~~work~~ in Bavaria. Among these, the most important were Bonn representatives Rudolf LODGMANN von AUEN, head of the "Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft", Richard REITZNER and (fn) SCHUETZ, who are all members of the Joint Committee for protection of Sudeten German interests. He is also reported to be in contact with a neo-Nazi named Alfred LORITZ.

a. PRCHALA visited Germany near the end of July 1950. On 27 July he had a conference with leaders of the CNS in Stuttgart. At this meeting ~~no~~ no mention was made of any impending agreement with the Germans; only a general statement that a solution for the Sudeten problem must be found. On 4 August 1950 an agreement was signed by PRCHALA and PEKELSKY on behalf of CNS, and by LODGMANN, REITZNER, SCHUETZ, CZERMAK and SPD representative Ernst PAUL on behalf of the Sudeten Germans. It is not known precisely why Senzel JAKSCH, member of the secretariat of the SPD, did not sign this agreement in view of his previous support of PRCHALA. Probable reasons are his awareness of the lack of support for the PRCHALA program in Czechoslovakia and his disagreement with the CNS policy of a Central European federation. Main point of the entire agreement was the stated realization of the self-evident right and necessity of the Sudeten German expellees to return to their homeland.

h The signing of this agreement led to an immediate and sharp drop in the membership of the PRCHALA movement in Germany. Thus, in the Valka DP camp the membership dropped from 358 registered members to 168 in October 1950. Comparable decreases were experienced in all the other refugee camps in the American Zone, with the result that as of June 1951 an analysis of the most reliable estimates puts the total active membership at about 250 members.

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8. PRCHALA, who had returned to England in August 1950, made another trip to Germany in September 1950, accompanied by Dr. LOCHER. They met LODGMANN and SCHUETZ in Wiesbaden and continued to Bonn where they had conferences with various ~~members of the~~ Sudeten German members of the Bonn parliament. The object of these conferences was reorganization of the CNS and CNV, attainment of a closer working agreement with the Sudeten Germans and discussion of measures to halt the decline in CNS membership. PRCHALA returned to England without visiting any of the DP Camps and LOCHER followed him after visiting camps in Augsburg, Mittenwald, Valka and Ulm.

9. The number of PRCHALA adherents in Germany reached its peak late in 1949. The marked reduction in membership since that time is the result of several causes. Not the least important factor has been the personality of PEKELSKY himself. His dictatorial behavior, his "unauthorized" interviews and his contacts with right-wing Germans have caused several members to quit in disgust. A second factor is the increasing realization among the rank and file of the movement, that war-time collaborationists occupy positions of influence around PRCHALA. The third and most important factor is the signing of the above-mentioned agreement between the CNS and the "Joint committee for protection of Sudeten German interests".

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104 PRCHALA has expressed the hope that he may be able to effect agreements with the Slovak separatists headed by Karel SIDOR at a future date. Although no concrete evidence could be found of financial support for the CNS and CNV by Germans, there are persistent rumors that JAKSCH and LUDGMANN supply enough funds to at least underwrite the publication of the magazine, circulation of which has dropped to about one hundred ~~###~~ readers. Other rumors indicate that these same backers are beginning to feel that they are backing a movement without a future, the aims of which are not likely to be realized and which cannot contribute materially to the aims of the Sudeten German group.

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