

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. About a week after my return from Katyn in April 1943, Alexander MACH, Minister of Interior, told me to prepare a speech about my experiences at Katyn to be delivered before a small select group the next day, which was a Saturday. I prepared my speech, but that evening (Friday) announcements about my speech were on the radio and in the newspaper; obviously the speech was to be open to the public. I immediately called MACH and protested vigorously, but he said that it would be best to go ahead with the speech; he realized that the story would be of tremendous propaganda value against the Soviets. Under the circumstance I refused to deliver the speech but a few hours later MACH telephoned and in no uncertain terms ordered me to make the speech on Sunday; he further said that it would be in public. I delivered the speech on Sunday in the Sokol Hall in Bratislava before a group which included newsreel cameramen and many newspaper correspondents. I related exactly what I had seen at Katyn and read the official report of the investigation. I stated that it was my personal opinion as well as the opinion of the other members of the Commission that the Polish officers had been murdered by the Soviets. I tried to make it clear that all the scientific evidence pointed to the fact that the Soviets had killed the Polish officers in the late Winter or Early Spring of 1940. In order to impress my audience with the threat of Communism, I read a telegram sent by General (fnu) STEFANIK, a Slovak by birth, to French General (fnu) JANIN. In the telegram, he denounced Bolshevism in the strongest and most bitter terms, saying that "Bolshevism is the ugliest, most evil force on the face of the Earth". I wrote my speech to conclude

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and most bitter terms, saying that "Bolshevism is the greatest evil force in the face of the earth". I wrote my speech in English with, "I am not in a position to claim that similar events (as the Katyn massacre) have not and are not taking place in other localities. I cannot condone the actions taken against the Czech students in Prague (the Germans had shot many Czech students after they had staged a demonstration in Prague), and merciless reprisal against the population of Lidice. The human race has reached a new low". MACH made me take out the references to the shooting of Czech students in Prague and Lidice, so that the speech ended on a somewhat general, humanitarian note. My closing sentence was, "One day in Katyn, a large monument will be erected in tribute to those murdered there as a constant reminder to future generations that such deeds should never again be permitted to take place". My entire speech was printed in the Slovak newspaper, Slovak, in the beginning of May 1943; MACH directed all Slovak newspapers to carry excerpts from my speech, but some reported only my closing sentences. Many organizations, including the Zbrojovka Plant in Povazska Bystrica, requested me to make speeches about the Katyn investigation, but I refused them all; the one speech in Bratislava was the first and only public speech I made about Katyn.

2. In October 1943, (fnu) LUDIN, the German ambassador to Slovakia, sent a German official to ask me to make speeches and write articles for the newspapers on the Katyn affair, because the Soviets had sent a Commission of their own to Katyn in September and were attempting to place the blame for the murders on the Germans. I told the German that the Swiss member of the German investigation commission had made several speeches as well as written articles for the press on the subject. I went on to point out that I had not heard the Soviet announcement on Katyn and therefore could not counter their claims. About two weeks later LUDIN sent another representative to see me, this time a Slovak who brought reports of Radio Moscow's comments on the Katyn massacre. The reports were very brief, and mentioned nothing of a scientific nature. In a very general way the reports stated that the Soviets had investigated the Katyn affair and had come to the conclusion that the Germans were to blame. I remarked I could not contest the evidence of the Soviets since they had presented none, only a conclusion. On this basis, I refused to write anything for the newspapers or radio on the Moscow announcement.
3. In 1945, many professional friends as well as journalists advised me to leave Czechoslovakia for fear that the Soviets would exile me to Siberia. Since the front lines were backing up into Slovakia, I went to Austria, where I stayed until 4 July 1945. At that time US Occupation Forces were sending all Slovak nationals back into Czech territory on the basis of requests broadcast by Radio Prague. The American officer in charge of part of this project, a Capt. (fnu) BERRY, had been staying in the town of Kremsmuenster, Austria. I and my family were driven to Prague in US Army trucks and delivered to the Security Police (Sbor narodni bezpecnosti -- SNE). From Prague we were transported by the SNB to Bratislava and turned over to the district court. The women and children were released, but I was confined. In July 1945 I was called before an investigator, (fnu) HORAK, who wrote down in detail my participation in the Katyn investigation. When Soviet forces entered Slovakia, the Soviet NKVD, accompanied by a Slovak communist from Trnava, (fnu) HARDSTEIN, searched for me in my hometown, Kuklov (District of Malacky) and at the home of my wife's parents in Trnava. In September 1945, an official of the Bratislava police came to me with a telegram from the Ministry of Interior in Prague, which requested that I be investigated with particular reference to the circumstances under which I had gone to Katyn as a member of the German International Investigation Committee. The telegram also requested information on the Swiss

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member of the Commission, his age, whether he was a Germanophile, and any other data. I told the official that all the information had already been given to (fnu) HORAK. Nevertheless, I told him that the Swiss delegate was about 60, was not a Germanophile as far as I knew, and that he had not played an important role in the Katyn investigation. I was released on 31 December 1947, after having been in jail since July 1945.

4. In June 1948, a member of the State Secret Police (Statni bezpecnost -- StB) from Trnava took me to StB Headquarters. There he asked me what I was doing, where I was working, etc. After he telephoned StB Headquarters in Bratislava, he told me that he had not been aware of the fact that I had been released from jail. He had asked the Bratislava StB whether he should detain me and apparently they told him that I had been arrested and released. He chided me for not telling him the facts; I reminded him that he had not asked me. After about two hours, I was released, with instructions to continue working at my job. A few days later I met this same man on an isolated street in Trnava. He told me that two lawyers and two doctors (all four Jewish) had informed the StB that I had been connected with the Katyn investigation. The lawyers were Dr. Josef GALKO, who was, the last I knew, still practicing law in Trnava on Masaryskov ulice, and Dr. Neumann TIBOR, who immigrated to Australia in the Autumn of 1948. I do not recall the names of the two doctors. The StB man seemed very sympathetic and I do not believe he was a Communist, because he was dismissed from the StB in 1951 and sent to work as a laborer on a state farm.
5. About September 1948, I received a letter from a Julius EPPSTEIN of New York, editor of some publication. He sent a list of questions regarding Katyn for me to answer. By this time the Communists had a firm foothold in Slovakia, so my lawyers advised me to forget the inquiry.
6. In November 1949, I was called before the Peoples' Court in Bratislava, which was presided over by a lawyer assisted by two laborers. My lawyer was Dr. Stefan KRAL. Again I had to relate briefly my connection with the Katyn affair. The chief prosecutor said almost nothing. I was treated with respect, and the outcome was a verbal reprimand for the speech I had made against Bolshevism in 1943.
7. On 9 September 1950, two men in civilian clothes called at the hospital in Trnava where I was working. One wore a leather coat and introduced himself as Capt. KUBIK; the other did not bother to introduce himself. They said they would like to talk to me for half an hour. I was scheduled to deliver a lecture in five minutes, and asked if the conversation could be postponed. They agreed and returned in two hours. I got into their car; a third man was driving and he asked if I knew we were going to Bratislava. I replied that it was my understanding that we were to talk in Trnava. We drove to Bratislava and went directly to a room on the fourth floor of the police presidium on Spitalska ulica. I was requested to tell them my life history. I had been talking only three minutes when one of them suddenly interrupted with, "Why did you go to Katyn?". I then talked about Katyn for half an hour. Then they queried me about my work at Bratislava University. The three men alternated in questioning me; they constantly switched subjects, jumping from one period of my life to another. The man sitting behind me charged that MACH had sent me to Katyn as a political spy; I denied this and said that I had witnesses to prove my statement. I gave names of people who could bear out my story whereupon he jumped up, cursed me and threatened to hit me on the head with his open hand. I simply said, "Very well, go ahead and kill me -- it is not true". This type of charges and counter-charges continued for about an hour. Capt. KUBIK tried to

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calm me by saying that they would never dream of killing me, that the StB treated people well, and never killed anyone; he accused me of misrepresenting them. The conversation jumped back to Katyn. One of them asked me if I had any idea of the damage I had done to the reputation of the glorious Red Army. He said I had done more damage than if the Red Army had lost two whole divisions on the battle field. He asked me who had represented me in my court hearings, how I had managed to get out so easily, how many people I had bribed, and who my connections were. They threatened to bring me before a workers' tribunal, and dispose of me in such a manner that "not even a dog will know where you disappeared to". Another man informed me that they had me at their mercy, that they could do with me as they liked; even kill me instantly since not one of the ministers could order them around, not even Gottwald. "All of those people are about this big," he said, holding his hand a few inches above the table. Still another raved "We fought in the hills while you stayed at home and became fat and rich; you have property and estates". Another remarked that the French member of the Commission had refused to sign the protocol on the findings at Katyn and wanted to know why I hadn't done likewise. I wasn't allowed to say anything. One of them said that I actually had had more authority than MACH at the time since I was a member of the Commission. I laughed and told them no one would ever believe that. I was accused of being a member of the Slovak State Council and as such even more important than MACH. Actually the Slovak State Council was fairly inactive; the only legal function it had was to try the president or a cabinet minister for high treason, upon the recommendation of parliament. It was also supposed to advise the president, but as far as I know, the president never called on the council for such advice. My interrogation ended at 0100 the next day, after which I was confined to the jail in the police presidium building. I slept on a wooden bench with no bedding in a small room with four other men. The next day I was put in a cell by myself. The SNB guards impressed me as being fairly decent. For the next two weeks similar questioning took place each day in the morning and in the afternoon; the three men were joined by two others, making a total of five. During the first week Katyn was the main topic of interrogation. The StB men constantly used a threatening tone; at one point Capt. KUBIK took two candles out of the desk drawer. He played with the candles and cast threatening glances at me from time to time which was supposed to make me talk out of fear of having the soles of my feet burned. Another man, referred to as MILAN, waved a blackjack around conspicuously. He said that all he wanted was the truth, that they certainly would not make me stand trial again, that with just a few statements I would be allowed to return to work. MILAN left the room occasionally, whereupon Capt. KUBIK started his gentle talk. MILAN would shout about Communist ideology, calling me "an enemy of the people and dangerous to society". The questioning always ended with a threat of death; I always went to sleep with this on my mind. I felt that all this was a psychological preparation. During this first week, I didn't realize what the StB wanted; I held back nothing, but I quickly learned that they would not hesitate to use threats in order to get confessions. I was convinced that if one of their victims refused to talk, they would not hesitate to use physical torture. At the end of the second week, they gave me a pencil and paper and told me to write my account of the Katyn affair in detail. During the second week the Katyn affair began to take more and more of a back seat in the interrogation. My questioners asked about my connections with Vladimir CLEMENTIS, Ladislav NOVOMESKY, the head of the Slovak Educational System at that time, Dr. Daniel UKALI, Chief of the Interior Department in Slovakia, Dr. Gustav HUSAK, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Dr. Ivan HORVATH, Czech ambassador to Hungary. CLEMENTIS and I had gone to the same high school in 1914-1915, although he was two grades ahead of me. I had had only casual

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conversations with him, usually consisting of nothing more than a friendly greeting. He was graduated from the high school in Skalica in 1920 and then studied law in Prague, after which he practiced law in Bratislava from 1926 until 1938. During this period we had coffee together frequently (almost weekly) in a cafe. I never saw him after 1938. NOVOMESKY was born near my home town; I met him for the first time through the Union of Slovak Writers. I had seen Dr. OKALI on a few occasions but never talked with him; since he was a literary critic I had listened to some of his speeches. To the best of my knowledge, I never saw Dr. HUSAK. I met Dr. HORVATH through the Union of Slovak Writers. The StB men asked me to write in great detail everything I knew about these people; actually I knew nothing more than any well-read citizen. During the third week I dictated, to a female stenographer, a detailed account of my life including information on my relatives and the Katyn investigation. This account covered about 45 long pages; it was typed in seven copies, and I had to sign each page. They wanted to know the contents of a package I had recently received from Dr. Vojtech BARDOS, a friend of mine who was studying in the US. (He returned to Bratislava and as far as I know, is employed with the Ministry of Health there.) The StB was obviously trying to charge me with espionage in connection with the package. They also questioned me about my connections with diplomats who had served in Slovakia during World War II. I answered their questions briefly. The fourth week I remained alone in my cell, and talked to no one. At the end of the fourth week, on 9 March 1950, I was again called in. Two of the men told me that they had investigated me completely and found that I had told the truth, that I had no property, and that I had devoted my life to others. He went on to say that a dependable man like myself should have no capitalistic connections but should work for the building of socialism in Czechoslovakia. He talked very pleasantly, offered me cigarettes (which I refused) and told me to return to work. I asked what I was to say at the hospital to explain my absence; he said I should just say that everything was in the hands of the StB. He concluded by saying that some sort of a commission had decided my fate. The majority wanted to throw me into a forced labor camp. According to KUBIK, I had him to thank for the fact that I was released; he allegedly stood up for me on the grounds that I was a part of the building of socialism in the country. I was instructed to never speak to anyone about my connection with the StB.

8. I heard nothing more about Katyn until February 1951, when MILAN asked me to meet him in a cafe in Trnava. He was very friendly and asked me how I was getting along. He proudly claimed credit for the arrests of CLEMENTIS and others in the Fall of 1950. He then asked me to write the life story of Msgr. Jan PÖTENYE of Trnava, who came from Kuklov and was chairman of the Catholic Cultural Association, Order of St. Adalbert, which was responsible for the publication of religious publications and hymnals in Slovakia. He did not tell me what he wanted with the information. In all, we spent about 30 minutes together. I was to mail the information to him to Bratislava addressed as follows: (some sort of slogan), Poste Restante. I mailed the data a few days later.
9. Two weeks later, MILAN called on me again. He had his driver take us to a lonely road on the outskirts of town. We got out and he told the driver to drive a short distance away. He then mentioned that I had once been a member of the Slovak Academy of Arts and Sciences and told me to write a detailed report on the organization, including date established, permanent heads, etc. He also asked me to write down everything I knew about the faculty of Bratislava University when I taught there. He told me to take my time and added that he would pick up the information after two weeks. He returned in about two weeks, picked up the material I had prepared, and told me to meet him at a certain spot in Bratislava a few days later.

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10. Some four days later, I went to Bratislava and met him at the agreed place near the Danube River. He was accompanied by two other men; we all got into a car and drove to Horsky Park which overlooks Bratislava. In this isolated place, I was told to write a detailed account of everyone I knew in the Union of Slovak Writers. It did no good to tell him that I had covered the subject in great detail many times before. We remained about half an hour, after which he took me to the main railway station in Bratislava.
11. After two weeks, MILAN again came to Trnava, and drove me to an isolated spot on the outskirts of town. For the first time a person who spoke Czech was with him; he said very little, but I could tell by his speech that he came from Bohemia. MILAN again asked me about the diplomats I had known. I pointed out that I had already given this information, but he insisted that I write it all down in minute detail. After this meeting, I was called to Bratislava about five times, the last time in the latter part of May. At these meetings everything that had been covered before was hashed over again and again.
12. Around the first of May 1951, two Czechs from Prague came to my house in Trnava and introduced themselves as members of the StB. They asked about my connection with the Katyn investigation, my trial, etc. After I had told them, they remarked that I had gotten off very lightly. One of them accused me of belonging to the worst class of reactionaries in all Slovakia. Then they gave me a choice of either signing a statement or going with them to Prague. The statement read that I agreed to work with the Communist Regime, and that I would faithfully serve the People's Democratic Republic. I pointed out that I was already working for the state, inasmuch as I was working in a state hospital, but they said that that was not enough. I could see nothing in the statement that would bind me to the police, so I signed.
13. After two weeks, one of the two men telephoned me and asked me to go to Bratislava. I went within the next two days; they met me and we went to the Cafe Reduta. They questioned me about leading Slovak figures who had immigrated to other countries; they wanted to know what they were doing and what sort of contacts I maintained with them. 25X1
14. A week later the same men phoned me at the hospital and asked me to meet them at the Cafe Savoy in Bratislava. They asked me about well known Slovak writers, in particular, Jan SMREK and Emil BOLESLAV LUKAC. I knew them well; I had met them through the Union of Slovak Writers. My interrogators wanted to know how these writers felt about Communism. I said that some had written pro-Communistic works and that some had been in Moscow. I added that the men were professional writers and had not dabbled in political matters. They asked me if I believed that war was imminent between Russia and the West; I said that I believed that the powers concerned would somehow find a suitable solution to their difficulties. They made notes of everything I said.
15. One of these men from Prague came to Trnava about two weeks later; once again he asked me about former political leaders in Slovakia, namely, Alexander MACH, Dr. Mikulas PRUZINSKY, Tidoye GASPAR, Jan FERJENCIK, and Dr. Geyza MEDRICKY. I told them that as far as I knew all of them had been arrested in 1946 and were confined in Leopoldow Prison.

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16. Two weeks later, a man speaking Slovak phoned me at the hospital and asked me to come to Bratislava. He met me at the railway station and drove me to the Hotel Carlton. We were joined shortly by three other men and a woman about 26 years old. They asked me to tell everything I knew about personalities at the University of Bratislava. They were especially interested in Prof. Dr. Andrej MRÁZ, professor of Slovak literature at the School of Philosophy. Dr. MRÁZ was a well-known literary critic, always to the left politically; during World War II he became an outright Communist. I had not seen him since 1934. The girl took down our conversation in shorthand.
17. A fortnight later, a member of the StB from Bratislava whom I had not met before called on me; the driver of his car called him Jozo. We drove to the village of Bucany, about eight kilometers from Trnava. He wanted to know the names of leading Communists in Trnava as well as the names of former Social Democrats. I named about six people who were regarded by everyone as Communists; they did not appear to be new names to him. Then I named three people whom I believed had been Social Democrats, but added that I didn't know anything else about them. He asked me about other people whom I did not know; I do not remember the names. Jozo called on me in Trnava about four more times; the meetings were 10-14 days apart. Each time he asked me about a particular individual, usually someone about whom I knew absolutely nothing. He was very interested in a Dr. Mikulas GASPARIK, Director of the Trnava Gymnasium, presumably a dyed-in-the-wool Communist. I knew nothing about him. Soon afterward, however, GASPARIK was released from his job at the gymnasium as well as from his membership on the Trnava National Committee of the CP. I was requested to approach GASPARIK and find what he thought of TITO. I refused on the grounds that I simply couldn't arrange to meet a man whom I didn't know, and they finally dropped the matter. I did, however, tell one of my best friends, Dr. Josef AMBRUS, about each meeting I had with the StB; he knew Dr. GASPARIK fairly well and I asked Dr. AMBRUS to tell Dr. GASPARIK to watch his step because the StB was after him; I asked AMBRUS not to mention my name. I have no idea why the StB so diligently pursued the case of Dr. GASPARIK. For subsequent meetings Jozo called for me at the hospital and we walked in the park near by. He asked me to give him in writing the names of the head physicians at the Trnava Hospital, their political leanings, beliefs, loyalty, etc. I was to deliver this information to him at the railway station in Bratislava. When I arrived at the station I saw his car parked at the entrance, but I purposely lost myself in the crowd to avoid contacting him, although I stayed in Bratislava all day. A few days later Jozo and a companion came to Trnava and demanded an explanation as to why I didn't meet him as planned. I swore that I had been in the station but they had not. Surprisingly enough, they dropped the subject. They asked me to prepare a list of the teachers at the Trnava Gymnasium; they said they would pick it up in two weeks. The day before they were due, I played sick by drinking large quantities of rum, which made me red in the face and caused a temperature. Jozo seemed very disappointed and promised to return in two weeks. I complained that I was being overworked, my superior was becoming suspicious of my making so many trips to Bratislava, and that I simply did not have the time to procure information for the StB. Jozo insisted that there was not much work involved as I could get most of the information by merely meeting people in cafes, etc. I insisted that I had too much work at the hospital and invited him to visit me there to see for himself. A month later he returned and wanted to know if I had prepared the list of the doctors at the hospital and the teachers at the gymnasium. I told him that not only had I too much work to do, but that I didn't know any of the teachers at the gymnasium. This perturbed him somewhat and he remarked that if I had really wanted I could obtain the information easily by getting certain people drunk while I remained sober. I said that I couldn't afford such expenses, but Jozo said that he would arrange to pay for everything. I insisted that I could not possibly perform such work. He left shortly, saying "cest prac!" (a salute to work).

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18. About the first of October 1951, Jozo drove to Trnava with a chauffeur and a man who spoke Czech. We drove to the outskirts of Trnava, where the man who spoke Czech asked what I did at the hospital and whether we had enough chemical supplies in the laboratory. I surmised that he was not a specialist in that line, but probably an StB man from Prague. He wanted to know everything I did at work in detail, my teaching, extracurricular activities, etc. We talked about an hour, after which they left me in front of the hospital.
19. In November of the same year, the man who spoke Czech picked me up in Trnava and we drove to Sered, about 15 km. east of Trnava. We went into a restaurant which was empty, and he pulled out of his briefcase a number of group pictures of celebrations, meetings, etc. I recall pointing out MACH, but I didn't recognize most of the people; some were ministers of Slovakia during World War II. We had some black coffee and soon afterward they took me back to the hospital; I never saw any of this group again.
20. From the time the StB agents from Prague entered the picture, Dr. AMBRUS and I began to try to find some means of escape to the West. The telephone calls and visits by the StB made me uneasy because I was afraid that people would suspect me of being an StB informant; certainly those closely associated with me at the hospital knew what was going on. All of these friends agreed that my only way out was to leave the country because once you gave information to the StB, there was no escape. Thinking up new excuses for not doing the things which I was ordered to do by the StB began to affect my efficiency at work. Each time I visited my brother in Kuklov, my visit and what I did while there was reported by local Communists to the StB. The postman, who delivered mail to the hospital, told me to be very careful because my mail was being opened. An SNB man in Voderady, about 15 km. southeast of Trnava, told me to be careful because I was being followed at all times.
21. In February 1952, I received a letter from a member of the House of Representatives of the US Congress asking for information on my participation in the Katyn investigation. The letter was addressed to me at the University of Bratislava. I do not know whether the letter first went to the University or whether it came directly to me from the Bratislava post office, but when I received it, it was enclosed in another envelope, with the address of the hospital written by hand. It might have been that some friend at the university or the post office intercepted the letter and re-addressed it. I could not tell that the letter had been opened but the possibility that the StB in Bratislava or Prague had intercepted it cannot be excluded. I conferred with my friends as to what I should do about the letter; some thought I should take it to the police but I saw nothing in the letter which could be interpreted as detrimental to the state, so I didn't follow their advice. As far as I know there were no investigations as the result of my receipt of this letter.
22. On Sunday afternoon, 6 April 1952, a tall man called on me; he introduced himself (in Czech) as Vincent NECAS, editor of the Czech Publishing Office (Cesky Tiskovy Kancelar -- CTK). He told me that the "American Imperialists" had set up a Congressional committee to prove that the Soviets were to blame for the massacre of Polish soldiers at Katyn for propaganda purposes. He mentioned that the Czech journalist, Dr. Frantisek KOZISEK, had already written newspaper articles proving that the Germans were to blame for the Katyn mass murders. Dr. KOZISEK had gone to Katyn in his capacity as a journalist either before or after our Commission was there. He represented the Moravian-Bohemian Protectorate. I had read Dr. KOZISEK's article which stated that the Germans had committed "another gruesome, bestial atrocity", and that the "American imperialists" were trying to twist

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the facts for propaganda purposes. He added that Prof. Dr. (fnu) HAJEK had done likewise. NECAS said that he had gotten them to write the articles. Dr. HAJEK's article was published in the newspaper, Lidova Demokracie; he reiterated his statements of 1945 that the Germans had committed the atrocities at Katyn. I know, however, that after Dr. HAJEK returned to Czechoslovakia in May 1945, he was arrested by the Communists and jailed for three days; shortly after that he wrote, under duress, a brochure entitled The Truth About Katyn. Although I haven't seen Dr. HAJEK since we returned from Katyn in 1943, I am certain that he was forced to write the brochure, because at Katyn, I specifically asked him his opinion as an expert in criminal medicine. I clearly remember him saying that there was no doubt that the murders had been committed by the Russians, since they were in command of the territory at the time the murders were estimated to have taken place. NOIBERT, Czech publisher, told Dr. AMBRUS that Dr. HAJEK was coerced into writing his statement although it was prefaced by the assertion that he was voluntarily submitting his views on the subject. NECAS requested me to write the "facts" about Katyn, strongly slanted against the "Western Imperialists". I told him that I was not an expert in criminal medicine and that Dr. HAJEK was better qualified to give an opinion. NECAS said this reason was not adequate, I would have to write something immediately. I told him that the earliest I could get it to him would be the next day. He said that if he didn't call for the material before noon the next day, I should send it special delivery to: Vincent NECAS, CTK, Praha, Na Porici. I wrote about a page and a half, double-spaced, on the typewriter. He didn't come for it so I sent it to him as he requested. I stated that I was not a specialist in criminal medicine, that I had not participated in any debates at Katyn since this was not my field. I said that I had always been interested in Poland because I had translated Polish works into Slovak and that my interest in Katyn was general; I wanted to find out whether the bodies were actually Polish. I went on to say, in carefully couched terms, that it was common knowledge that the Germans had committed similar atrocities and that they were capable of having committed the atrocity at Katyn. I could see what NECAS was after and I felt I had to slant my story. To have done otherwise would have meant possible incarceration. I quoted the German admission (contained in a book published by the Germans) that the cartridges used in the killings at Katyn were of German manufacture. It was the consensus of the Commission when we were at Katyn, that the Russians had used ammunition captured from the Germans; of course I said nothing of this in my statement. I also said that when we arrived at Katyn, the graves had already been opened by the Germans, and the bodies arranged with typical German neatness. I stated that the Commission had examined only some 15 bodies. I pointed out that Dr. COSTEDOAT had been dismissed as a member of the Commission because he did not want to sign the final report of the investigation, that only three men had written the protocol which was read before a large group at a banquet which made it very inconvenient to contest any part of the report. I used these points to slant the blame for Katyn on the Germans, although certainly none of them proved anything. I tried to slant the blame in the Germans' direction without actually saying that they had really committed the atrocities. I found this difficult to do because of what I had seen at Katyn and the unanimous opinion of the experts on the scene at the time.

23. Up until the time I left Czechoslovakia in April 1952, nothing concerning my report on Katyn had ever been published to the best of my knowledge. About 15 April 1952, I received a letter from the Tatra Publishing House in Bratislava begging me not to stand by silently any longer and urging me to write my views on the matter and so disprove the false claims of the West. I replied that earlier in the month I had submitted my views in full and told them to whom I had sent the data. I added that I thought it a tragedy that books of Polish poetry which I had translated had been banned in Czechoslovakia. These books had been written during the first Czechoslovak Republic and contained absolutely no political coloring in the least. I ended my letter with "Phooey on life! (fuj zivot!) Sincerely yours, (signature), former poet, former physician, and former human being!"

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