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ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL OF CZECHOSLOVAK
GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATIONS

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ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL OF CZECHOSLOVAK
GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATIONS

[Following are translations of articles on the above subject, selected from Sbornic Ceskoslovenske Spolecnosti Zemepisne (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society), Vol LXV, No 4, Prague, November 1960.]

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BIOGRAPHY OF PROF KLEMENT URBAN,
CZECHOSLOVAK GEOGRAPHER

[Following is the translation of an article by Boh. Horak in Sbornik Ceskoslovenske Spolecnosti Zemepisne (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society), Vol LXV, No 4, Prague, November 1960, page 353.]

Professor Klement Urban who celebrates his 80th birthday this year, was born on 22 November 1880 at Vsemine near Vizovice. After passing his Final Examination in 1901 at the gymnasium at Valasske Mezirici, he studied history and geography at Prague University. Professor Augustin's geography lectures interested him most. After having finished his university studies in 1905, he became an assistant teacher at Prostejov high School and a permanent teacher at Litovli in 1909, where he succeeded the promising young geographer, Vaclav Novy, who had died a tragic death. Urban, who wanted to devote himself fully to geography, first took up the study of modern languages, above all English. Of the Romance tongues he learned Italian best, but also devoted time to French, Spanish, Rumanian (some Portuguese) and of the Slavic tongues, Russian. He also studied Esperanto, which often served him to good purpose in his travels abroad.

In September 1920 he took part in the International Scouting meeting in London, where he stayed til mid-December. During that time he finished a three months language course and passed the examination. In the British metropolis he was fascinated by the wealth of museums there, while he also had an opportunity to acquaint himself with teaching methods at schools of various kinds, from the lowest to the highest. On his return he was informed by Director Machata that the Illustrovany Zemepis vsech dilu sveta (Illustrated Geography of the world) where he had published an article on Europe, Western, Northern and part of Central Europe, would have a second edition. In order to get a firm basis for this new, enlarged edition, based on his personal view, in 1923 he visited Germany, Denmark, Sweden, the Baltic states and Poland, and the following year Rumania from where he could not get very reliable reports. About his travels he published numerous fascinating and well written articles and reports in the press Oloumoucke prudy -- Oloumouc Currents, Moravskoslezsky denik -- Moravian-Silesian Daily, Pozor -- Attention, Ceske Slovo -- Czech Word, Pravo lidu -- Peoples Right, Volna Myslenka -- Free Thought. In 1922 he asked for a transfer from Litovle to Kyjov, from where after a year he was officially assigned to the high school at Praha-Holesovice and finally permanently appointed to the high school at

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Jecna Street, where he worked until his retirement in 1939.

While he taught in the country, he took an active part in club life and information of the public. In Prague he was in his element. He was fully active in geography. He became a permanent contributor to the Sbornik Cs. spol. zemepisne and wrote articles for the early editions of the magazine Sirym svetem (The Wide World). He took over the editorship of the illustrated magazine Ceskoslovensko v obrazech (Czechoslovakia in Pictures) which was published in two volumes at the Teachers' Publishing House in 1927 and of the publication Nase hory (Our Mountains) published in 1930. That same year he again went to Britain. He visited Scotland and Ireland, where he again saw work at schools in Edinburgh and Dublin. His conclusions on education there were in favor of our schools. Particularly he appreciated the equipment of our schools in teaching aids. In 1931 he took part in the international Esperanto Congress in Paris. Together with Professor Zpevak, he published in 1934 - 37 a geography textbook for secondary schools. In 1939 was published his Illustrated Geography Dictionary which was to serve as a quick reference work. The new edition of 1948, however, was not published, neither the second volume, devoted to regional geography, for which he obtained Prof Stehule's cooperation. In 1937 the Government Publishing House started publication of States in Pictures. The first two volumes, dealing with France written by Urban and with his own pictures, were intended for visitors to the World's Fair taking place in Paris that year. They were very successful. The next volume was the first of a work on the Soviet Union. Urban wrote it after a visit there in 1937. A second edition was published after the war. Together with Dr Heidrich, he also published a volume on Sweden. In manuscript form remained the methodological work Geography, its Nature and Methods (Scientific and Instructive) which he wrote at the Instigation of the Professors' Union in 1937 and presented in 1951 to CAV (Czech Academy of Sciences). Very favorable comments on this work were given by Prof Kettner in the CAV Periodical, 1951, page 58 and by Fr. Vitasek, ibid. page 139.

He had agreed with the Union to publish a popularly written collection Illustrated Geography. This was to be Urban's textbook. He also collected voluminous material for individual continents and continues doing so although he doubts he will be able to process and publish them.

Professor Urban proved his methodical experience as an Instructor of geographic methods at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Brno and then also in Prague in the years 1947-1949. During recent years, however, (since 1953) he returned to the love of his youth. "To poetry where he seeks consolation and some creative pleasure," as he wrote in his biography, which I used for this quotation. That he is one of Erato's devoted admirers is proven by the extensive collection of his poetry. Urban is also skillful at drawing pictures, as proven by the drawings which adorn the pages of his voluminous diary.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE CABINET FOR GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

[Following is the translation of an article by J. Linhart in Sbornik Ceskoslovenske Spolecnosti Zemepisne (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society) Vol LXV, No 4, Prague, November 1960, pages 357-358.]

The Cabinet's activity was directed to completion of the basic complex geomorphological exploration of the Czech provinces in connection with detailed geomorphological mapping at the scale 1:25,000. The Cabinet's surveyors carried out the territorial exploration and mapped at the northern corner of the Beskyds and their foothills an area of 84 square kilometers, 85 km² at the edge of the Lower Jeseniky in tributaries of the Bilovky, 230 km² at the Blanensky Cut and the Lysicka lowland, 100 km² at the Krumlovsky Forest and its foothills, the central part of the Dyjskovratecky hills and the neighboring hills 245 km², and 408 km² in the territory of Greater Prague and south of Prague as far as the confluence of the Vltava and Berounka.

As a basis for the geomorphological map of CSSR at the scale of 1:1,000,000 in preparation, which is to be a part of the National Atlas of CSSR, a scheme for a comprehensive map of the Czech provinces at the scale of 1:500,000 was worked out. Areas of 32 types and sub-types of reliefs were envisaged within the framework of the fundamental geomorphological categories of tectonic reliefs, denuded and accumulated by erosion. In addition to the relief types, conspicuous morphological phenomena were marked by conventional signs. Geomorphological paragraphs for the general geological maps 1:200,000 (Mar. Lazne, Teplice, Plzen, Oloumouc) were worked out and presented at the requested time to the UUG, Prague. The results of geomorphological exploration carried out in 1958 in the to-be inundated region of the projected dam of the Oslava near Motiste were as requested submitted to Hydroproject in Brno in 1959. Complicated speleological exploration continued in the Moravian and Northern Moravian limestone mountains, and in the limestone mountains of the Eastern Sudets.

As an annex to the mentioned survey of the exploratory activity of the Cabinet, is information on the results of exploration done by individual surveyors printed in pamphlets published by the Cabinet for geomorphology for the 8th Congress of Czechoslovak Geographers in Opava, 1959, and for the 70th birthday of Prof Frant. Vitaska in January 1960. Beside the fulfillment of the plan on

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exploratory tasks, the bibliography of physical-geographical literature in the CSSR was included.

The cooperation between the Cabinet and members of the KSC and ROH [abbreviations unexplained in source] at the place of work proved to be a new form of scientific work. According to directives for the increased participation of employees in the activities of CSAV by means of the trade union, scientific and union workers partook in solving the problems of our Cabinet and in finding the most successful forms of exploratory activity. For expressing detailed geomorphological maps, instead of stripes, flat coloring was used more. This sped up and simplified the making of the original of detailed geomorphological maps and increased their comprehensiveness. By research-work in archives of various parts of the project, mapping was made more precise, and in addition the cost of separate research was saved. In exploring the limestone a method of determining cave-standards and their relationship to valley-forms and terraces was devised. In order to become acquainted with limestone-hydrography, the method of coloring water was used. This proved entirely satisfactory and helped to solve some of the problems of water currents in limestone mountains.

At the working meetings convoked by the Cabinet, the employees were also acquainted with the main principles of the directives of the third Five-Year Plan. Out of a collective discussion and after consulting with representatives of the KSC and ROH at the place of work, a plan for scientific exploratory work for 1961-65 issued, which was formulated and approved at the meeting of the enlarged committee in charge of the 2nd Section of CSAV and taken notice of by the scientific council of the Cabinet.

In 1959 scientific relations with other countries consisted of correspondence with scientific establishments and of visits of foreign scientists to us and our scientists going abroad. Cooperation with our universities and research institutions consisted of consultations, of attendance at criticism meetings, and of offering practical experience to students of geography at our place of work. Researchers of the Cabinet reported on the result of their work at the 10th meeting of Czechoslovak Geographers at Opava, at the research conference on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Brno University and at the convention of former graduate students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Brno.

The members of the Cabinet took part in publicity and public meetings, carrying out functions and lecturing at the Czechoslovak Society for the Spreading of Political and Scientific Knowledge, at the Czechoslovak Geographic Society, at Society for Mineralogy and Geology, at the Speleological Club and at the branches of SCSP. In 1959 they wrote 42 popular scientific articles and published 26 scientific treatises.

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The results of the Cabinet for Geomorphology's work for 1959 have shown that the political and expert standard of all participants have increased. Political work was intensified and work in mass organizations improved. This became evident too as the politically most matured members came to think of basic geomorphological items in political terms. Intensified activity became apparent, too, by the Cabinet members carrying out various functions in political and mass organizations, also by all members participating in RSS and founding a branch of SCSP at our working place. Several resolutions testify to the political consciousness of the employees. According to the check-up executed in November 1959, all obligations were carried out.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE PRAGUE BRANCH OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

[Following is the translation of an article by R. Malek and Ct. Votrubec in Sbornik Ceskoslovenske Spolecnosti Zemepisne (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society), Vol. LXV, No 4, Prague, November 1960, pages 379-383.]

The Prague Branch of the CSSZ [Czechoslovak Geographic Society] had the following activities at the end of 1959: on 24 August, together with the branch of economic geography, was organized a lecture by Dr St. Zajchowska, Lecturer of Poznan University, on the topic: "Methods of Studying Settlement Conditions in Poland." After the lecture followed a discussion, consisting mainly in comparing our own and Polish settlement conditions and in viewing numerous maps submitted by the person in charge. Attendance: 14 persons. On 14 October, Dr A. Zimm from Humboldt University, Berlin, gave a talk on the "Economic-Geographic Characteristics of West Berlin in the Present State of Affairs," in which he analyzed the economical, political and administrative function of West Berlin and proved that that position is maintained only thanks to artificial advantages due to its exposed situation, at the cost of the working people of the GDR. The realization of the suggested statute of a free city would do away with all these inequalities of the artificial state of things. A short discussion followed. Attendance: 10 persons. The lecture was organized together with the branch of Economic Geography, CSAV. On 30 August Engineer F. Svitalek, on the basis of many years of experience in business abroad, talked on the topic "How do people live in Burma": economic conditions, Czechoslovak-Burman trade, interior politics, and particularly the living standards of the various social classes. After his lecture, Mr. Svitalkek showed many color slides on the economic life and the ethnography and the country and answered listeners' questions. Attendance: 23 persons. The committee meeting on 3 November 1959 discussed these points: 1. The chairman's report on activities since the last committee meeting. 2. A plan of activity for the coming period; a resolution to continue the current series: economic news from CSSR (economic development of the Usti region, economic-geographic analysis of the Ostrava region), a discussion on the National Atlas of CSSR, (Cartographic demonstration of soil-exploitation in CSSR, population maps in the National Atlas), lectures on regional geography of foreign countries (Mongolia,

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China, Indonesia, Turkey), lectures by foreign geographers (if possible) and excursions (Vltava-region, Koneprus Caves, Budejovice region), concrete topics set only for 1960. Five Committee members present, three excused.

On 18 November Engineer R. Kohout, member of the Government Board of Statistics, talked on "the Conditions of Labor in Czechoslovak Agriculture"; in his report he gave a very interesting and, for geographers, valuable review of conditions in the whole Republic and individual regions and pointed out the tasks of our agriculture and avenues to their solution. In the following discussion he finished his report and answered various questions. On 8 December there was a meeting on study trips to Rumania and Hungary in the summer of 1959, slides from these trips were shown. Attendance 28 persons. Dr Kosinski, a member of the Geographic Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, on 11 December 1959 lectured on "Problems of Settling the Western regions of Poland." The lecture was arranged by the Prague branch of CSSZ [Czechoslovak Geographic Society] together with the branch of geographic economy EU CSAV and was very valuable and inspiring. The chairman and numerous participants in the discussion added to the lecture by observations on the problems of settling the Czechoslovak border regions, drawing an interesting and instructive parallel. Attendance 22 persons. On 15 December a committee meeting discussed the following points: 1. Applications for membership. 2. Plan for the new branch committee's composition. The same day, after the plenary meeting of the CSSZ, there was a short members' meeting of the Prague branch, at which the new committee was unanimously approved: Prof Dr J. Dobersky, chairman; Dr M. Blazek, vice-chairman; Dr Ct. Votrubec, negotiator; Dr M. Matousek, business chairman; and Dr J. Bosedla, Dr S. Siropolko, Dr R. Malek. At the meeting on 13 January 1960 the committee discussed a master plan of activities for the whole year. Main emphasis was put on lectures and excursions, on the Society's publicity in the press, and on gaining new members. Seven membership applications were discussed. The same night a membership meeting of the Branch under Prof Dobersky's chairmanship took place; attendance 21 persons. Architect M. Hrouda talked on the topic "Development of the Usti region's Economy." At present, in that region 35 million tons of brown coal is being mined, mostly from close under the surface. There exists an extraction problem (at the Gorkij mine it will be necessary to remove approximately 1.3 million m³). The manner of how mining is to be initiated strongly influences its further progress. The settlement problems, particularly in the Most region, are complicated, because mining conflicts with numerous engineering plants and some settlements must be razed. Under the city of Most there is 90 million tons of high quality coal. Mining changes the region's hydrology. The protection of mineral springs is important (Teplice, Brvany, Zajecice). Next, the lecturer focussed on the Stalin Plant at Zaluzi, which

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changes more and more to oil production, as their refinery is cheaper than carbonization of coal. Finally Engineer Hrouda discussed hydro-economic problems (Nechranicka dam, flooding at Ohri), energy questions (construction of power plants, coal plants, pressure gas works at Uzine, underground gassification of coal in the Chomutov region), questions of organizing agriculture in the coal regions, and the future prospects of the Usti region. On 27 January a member's meeting with 21 persons attending took place. The branch chairman, Dr Dobersky devoted a short address to the memory of the deceased Dr Rudolf Turcin, his contribution to the foundation and development of the academic branch, his activity as an editor and in the CSSZ committee. He also reminded of his activity during the resistance and active participation at all CSSZ meetings and all meetings of Slav geographers. After that, the scientist of CSAV, Dr Josef Hursky talked on Saxon Switzerland. After a long theoretical-methodological introduction, he gave a brief characteristics of the region. Saxon Switzerland measures 400 km² and has (without Pirna), 45,000 inhabitants; it has 3-4 times that many tourists, and recreational exploitation is 2-3 times that of the Czech side. After the Baltic, it is the GDR main recreational region. Next he talked on transportation circles, construction of motels and hotels, on the necessity of moving recreation from the valleys to the table-lands. Finally he showed 60 color slides and submitted photographs from the new recreation center at Gohrisch. On 10 February, there was a meeting of the Committee, five people being present. Dr Blazek reported on his participation in the Third Congress of Geographic Society of the Soviet Union. Four membership applications were discussed as well as the preparation of a discussion evening on the territorial division of Czechoslovakia. Then a members' meeting with a lecture by the editor of Mlada fronta (Young Front), Stanislav Bartl, on "Scientific exploration in the Antarctic 1958-59" took place; 64 persons present. The speaker was a member of the Soviet Antarctic expedition and was the third Czechoslovakian to stand on Antarctic soil. A great part of the Antarctic has so far remained unexplored and the Soviet expedition took up the task of doing so. During the International Geophysical Year, the USSR constructed as many inner polar stations as all the other countries combined. It was proved that Antarctic cyclones often change their direction and penetrate deep into the continent and beyond the South Pole. Several expeditions contributed to the solution of the question of whether the Antarctic was a continent or a group of islands. The eastern Antarctic is a continent, but of a smaller size than was originally estimated, and is surrounded by a number of islands, whereas the western Antarctic is probably a group of islands. About 90% of the ice in the world is in Antarctica (about 30 mil. km³), only about 6% of the territory being free of ice. The journey in which Bartl took part measured (including the boat trip) 44,000 km

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and lasted five months. Finally, he showed his photographs and answered questions (changes in the ice crust since Byrd's expeditions, scientific cooperation, the Washington Treaty on Antarctica, problems of wintering there, endurance of low temperatures). At the close, the chairman acquainted those present with plans for the future and with the Geographic Society's task.

In cooperation with the Geographic Section of the Society for the spreading of political knowledge and with the Cultural Center of Poland, on 19 February a lecture was given by the Polish scholar and Arctic traveler Stanislav Siedlecki on "The Polish Scientific Expedition to Spitzbergen (Svalbard) 1956-1959." 130 persons attended, and others could find no room in the lecture hall of the Polish Cultural Center. Dr Siedlecki started by recalling the first Polish Arctic Expedition (1932-33 Bear Island, 1934 and 1936 Spitzbergen, 1937 Greenland). He took part in all of them and gained much experience. He talked in detail about the Fifth Expedition, organized at the instigation of the Polish Academy of Science in 1956-59, in which altogether 76 scientists and 400 sailors took part. The main center was near Isfjord and Hornsundfjord. The Polish scientists built there a permanent base and contributed with numerous new discoveries to the solution of geological-geographic questions and problems of the International Geophysical Year. He described the expedition's life and work in a fascinating manner. The program was long and touched on meteorology, geology, geography, geodesics, glaciology, periglacial phenomena, geomagnetism and actinometry. They observed the Aurora Borealis, the atmosphere's content of carbon oxide and radioactive particles. The Polish station cooperated with the Norwegian-Russian and Swedish-Finnish-Swiss Expeditions. The lecture was accompanied by slides, and at the close, documentary [films] were shown which had been made by the expedition. The audience's thunderous applause expressed its appreciation of the Polish polar explorers' self-sacrificing scientific work. For a restricted circle of scientists and journalists, the Society organized, together with the Polish Cultural Center, a press conference with Dr Siedlecki at noon on 22 February and in which 15 persons took part. Again films and slides made by the Expedition were shown and the Polish scientist answered numerous questions which dealt with the climatic conditions, economic questions, and prospects of Spitzbergen. The daily press reported on that successful conference.

On the problem of CSR's new territorial organization a discussion evening was held on 3 March 1960, which was also attended by members of the Government Planning Board and regional planning boards from Pardubice and Usti n.L. The evening was started by Prof Dr Dobersky at 6 P.M., 28 members and guests being present. The discussion was conducted by Dr Strida. The first report came from Dr Valentin, head of the regional SPK [abbreviation unexplained in source], on the progress on the new territorial organization of the

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CSSR at the Government Planning Board. The main principle was democratic centralism. Coordination of economic regions remains as a basis. Diverse are the leading committee's points of view. Greater, economically more appropriate regions and districts, will make it possible to transfer the administration of further parts of the national economy to the National Committees and simultaneously advance development of the regions, as a guarantee of gradual equalization of living standards. For instance, for the formation of the Central Slovakian Region which is not an economic one, administrative and political criteria were decisive; a desire to spread out more evenly the forces of production and to raise the standard of living also in the distant central Slovakian area. Next, Dr Jar. Korcak gave a survey of the relationship between the new territorial organization and previous suggestions and attempts at organizing Czechoslovakia. This meant a new distribution of his time after the already published "Development of Methods of Regional Structure of CSSR" (Economic and Geographic Structure of Czechoslovakia, Report of the First Conference of Economic Geographers CSR, Prague, NCSAV, 1958.)

In the following discussion, Ct. Votrubec spoke on the problems of Slovakia's territorial structure, M. Strida talked on Moravia, V. Havlik on Southern and Eastern Bohemia, Hursky on Eastern, and J. Mares on Central Bohemia. Further, 10 geographers and practical workers spoke on some smaller discussion items. M. Strida summed up.

For the formation of new regions in Slovakia, a method of simple addition was used. This is basically correct. Only the incorporation of a part of the Nitra Basin into Central Slovakia can be considered a deviation. There the value of Power production must have been overestimated for Czechoslovak conditions. The transportation of coal and electrical current from region to region does not constitute a problem here. This was used in the method of simple addition, and the formation of new districts in Slovakia sometimes brings new problems which had come up with the first territorial structure and whose solution is more urgent today than before (i.e. the area of the Socialist town Dubnica n/V remains right on the region's boundaries). From the point of view of economic geography, the question of Banska Bystrica as a regional capital town was particularly discussed; further the relationship of Hradec Kralove to Pardubice, the distribution of the agglomeration of 100,000 people around Liberec, the problems of the territorial structure of our border regions, the environs of Prague, Ostrava, Pilzen, and others. The discussion referred also to regionalism and sane competition between cities. The evening's positive side was the demonstration of problems with concrete examples. It was shown that one cannot underestimate the cities' equipment of experts, suitable buildings and services. On the question of the composition of territorial units and economic ties, the conclusion

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was reached that the new structure mobilises more than the previous one all reserves and contributes to the equalization of distribution of forces of production and to the raising of the living standard. The members of the State Planning Board asked for further cooperation on the part of economic geographers and valued their up-to-date work in a positive manner. The working out of future prospects as well as the estimation of natural and economic conditions for each region on a geographic basis will contribute to the Regional and District National Committees' better execution of their coordinating task. Formerly, questions of territorial structure were remote from official geography, as from political and economic functionalities. Today, all these questions are linked up and economic geography deals actively with their solution. This proves the progress made in geography and its closer link with practical questions. Geographic ideas are respected and carried out in CSSR's new structure to a greater extent than formerly and more than in any other European country.

On 30 March, under Prof Dobersky's chairmanship, a lecture was given by Dr Miroslav Blazka on the topic "The Third Congress of the Soviet Geographic Society at Kiev in February-March 1960," 22 being present. (See also the lecturer's report, Sbornik CSSZ, 1960 65:355.)

On 30 April Dr Augustin talked on China at the members' meeting, 24 being present. Dr Augustin Palat is the deputy director of the Oriental Institute, CSAV. After having been welcomed by Prof Dobersky, he mentioned that he had lately spent six years in China and had come to know well about six provinces there, as he had done some orientalist research. First he spoke of the People's Republic of China's position over the last 10 years; about natural conditions and resources and attempts to exploit same to the best. He added numerous personal experiences, and also talked about the people and economy and devoted considerable attention to the originality of Chinese towns and their architecture. During the talk, he circulated some of his photographs, and finally showed two Chinese films in their original Chinese version. The subsequent discussion was extensive.

On 27 April 21 members present, Dr Vladimir Matousek, expert assistant of VSE [abbreviation unexplained in source], talked briefly on Indonesia, shortly after his six-months study trip to that interesting country. He focused particularly on population problems which are most acute at Madura. Since 1948, Indonesia's population has grown by 1.6 million yearly, which lowers her nutrition basis. About 1965, the population will reach 100 millions, while only 600,000 are working in industry. Since 1903, migration to lesser populated areas has been conducted, but to date, over 50 years, only 215,000 people have been moved. This is, therefore, no solution. The migration to the city is a very grave social problem. In 1930 Djakarta had 533,000 inhabitants, in 1957 - 1,000,000.

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1.8 million, and at present three million. Makassar grew from 85,000 in 1930 to 500,000 at present. Next, Dr Matousek talked about the people's material and social problems and the very low calory consumption (average 2,000 calories, at plantations only 1,500 daily). Of the total plantation area, 36% is in Java and 61% in Sumatra. Altogether 500,000 people work on plantations. Indonesia produces 36% of the world's natural rubber. A Five Year Plan was announced, but not carried out. Finally he talked about the problem of Chinese and businessmen and gave a review of the people working in Indonesian geography, who so far has not published anything. Next, some of the author's slides were shown.

At the Committee meeting of the Branch, held on 6 May, with four members present, eight membership applications were approved. The members were notified on resolutions of the UV CSSZ of 20 April and a letter from the active Opava Branch was discussed and accepted with thanks. Next were discussed some reports and the organization of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of CSSR liberation. The Chairman acquainted the other members with the organization of a discussion evening on geography in schools of 2nd and 3rd degree. It was decided to postpone the planned smaller excursion of the Branch to autumn and the program for lectures at the Branch till the end of 1960 was approved. On Branch initiative, a letter on securing a scientific program of the 9th Congress of Czech Geographers was sent to the Organization Committee. On the chairman's suggestion, the formation of a preparatory committee for an exhibition of geographic photography was approved. The Committee comprises: Bednar, Dobersky, Krska, Letosnik, Votrubic, and met for the first time on 12 May, 1960 and for two hours dealt with basic questions on the exhibition, and reported a discussion on geographic photography. It was decided to invite particularly 10-20 of our foremost geographers-photographers to take part in the exhibition and reports, Bednar and Votrubic were entrusted with the agenda, Letosnik and Krska with the technical problems. The date was set for 23 November 1960.

The Prague Branch Committee met on 18 May and dealt with the letters of greetings sent from the celebration of CSSZ. For acceptance as members of CSSZ, four applications were recommended. It was decided to deal with the position of geography and the spreading of political and scientific knowledge at a future committee meeting.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE BRNO BRANCH OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

[Following is the translation of an article by O. Stehlik, in Sbornik Ceskoslovenske Spolecnosti Zemepisne (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society) Vol LXV, No 4, Prague, November 60, page 380].

Activities of the Brno Branch for the first half of 1959. According to the schedule prepared at the end of 1958, the Brno Branch started its 1959 activities on January 14 by a lecture given by Dr J. Linhart: "The Cimlja- and Rybinsky Dam Lake, (Experiences from a study trip to the USSR)". During the lecture, attended by 33 persons, a brief picture of the state of geomorphological development of the banks of dam lakes in the USSR and of the state of geomorphological mapping executed by Soviet scientists in various regions of the USSR was given. The branch lecture activity continued on 18 February 1959 with a lecture given by Dr Otakar Slampa: "Experiences and Impressions from India," in which he acquainted the 35 person audience with the organization of geography teaching and research at Indian universities at Aligork, Calcutta, Madras and other universities and with personal experiences during his annual study trip. At the Brno Branch meeting of 19 March, 1959, Prof Michal Luknis talked on the topic: "Problems of Strba Lake and of its Protection." At this lecture, attended by 28 persons, Luknis informed about latest results of his research on the genesis of the lake basin of Strba and pointed out the importance of these data for a correct evaluation and measures necessary for the protection of one of the Tatra region's most important and greatest water supply basins. In March and April, the Brno Branch organized two lecture evenings together with the Czechoslovak Meteorological Society. Under these auspices, Dr F. Rein had a talk on "Typization of Synoptical Events in View of their Use in Climatology" on 31 March, and on 24 April, Dr M. Nosek spoke on "The Subject and Methods of Dynamic Climatology." Rein's talk was attended by 29 persons. He made a classification of synoptical types, which he had elaborated together with Prof Koncek as a basis for the study of Czech dynamic climatology. Nosek's talk, attended by 36 persons, dealt with the development of dynamic climatology, its methods of work and tasks in CSSR. He put special emphasis on the position of climatology within the framework of the geographical and geophysical sciences.

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At the suggestion of UV CSSZ, our branch on 6 May organized a discussion evening on the contents of the National Geographic Atlas of CSSR. The discussion was started by the reports of Dr Jan Krejci, university professor, and Major Dr Bohuslav Simak. The discussion results were submitted for further processing to the Geographic Committee of CSAV. The evening was attended by 22 members of our branch. The branch members further took part in the preparation and successful realization of the 8th Congress of Czechoslovak Geographers at Opava. They presented numerous reports, prepared information sheets and leaflets for the Congress exhibition. Some members were able to take part in excursions abroad to Hungary and Rumania, organized by the UV CSSZ, and the Seminar on Regional Geography, organized by the geography department of Brno University.

The Brno Branch Committee met five times during the first half of 1959, on 14 January, 16 March, 6 May and 21 June. At those meetings organizational matters were dealt with as well as membership, and preparation and execution of branch work. The Committee recommended eight persons for membership, moved for membership cancellation of three members on their own request; two members died. The Committee submitted to the CSAV chairmanship a motion for the appointment of Dr Jan Krejci as corresponding member of CSAV, and furnished the addresses of nine Brno geographers for the world geography Who's who (by means of the UV CSSZ). Together with foreign geographic organizations, the Branch Committee took steps to prepare a visit to Brno and the Moravian limestone region for a 70-member group of PTG geographers and for a 40-member group from Torun University. For the second half of the year, the Committee submitted a schedule of activities, including three lecture meetings.

REVIEW OF 15 YEARS OF GEOGRAPHIC WORK IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

[Following is the translation of an article by
Ot. Votrubec, in Sbornik Československé Společnosti
Zeměpisné (Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Geogra-
phic Society), Vol LXV, No 4, Prague, November,
1960, pages 383-384.]

At the 15th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's Liberation, the Prague branch on 18 May 1960 organized a lecture evening, attended by 31 persons, at which the 15 year development of the individual geographic disciplines was evaluated. They also analyzed the present state and future work prospects. As an introduction the long-time president, Dr Dobersky, gave a review of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society's activity, particularly stressing its work after 1954, when it was joined to CSAV. He mentioned the last Geographic Congress and conferences of scientists, and the number of Society members. As a close to the first part of his report, he expressed the desire that the Library of Geographic Works be renewed, which would increase geographers' publication possibilities. In the second part of his report, Prof Dobersky evaluated the development of Czechoslovak economic geography since 1945. Dr Vaclav Kral reported on physical geography. Equal attention has not been given lately to all branches of physical geography. Most of all, geomorphology has been practiced. Some practical problems were also solved, such as the exploration of soil for foundations of buildings. The increase of river terraces was mapped, which is valuable in the search for layers of gravel. Our already traditional exploration of limestone is at a high level. The overall geomorphological mapping has done away with one-sided attention to partial problems. The most neglected section is soil geomorphology. Dr Miroslav Strida presented the absent Dr Miroslav Blazko's report on the contemporary state of economic geography, its tasks and perspectives. About 30 persons work in one sector and much work has been done during the last years. In the past, the fault had been to spread out places of work and to feel reluctant to solve fundamental problems. The Government Research Plan for the time till 1965 includes the study of "Proportional development of Czechoslovak regions and placement of forces of production." This has two problems: 1) Analysis of natural and economic conditions of the economy in individual regions of CSSR. 2) Evaluation of the main trends of the economy's development in single

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regions according to their specialization and position within CSSR National Economy. These exceptionally important and very problematic tasks are already in process of being dealt with. According to how these tasks are solved, our effort will be evaluated. Dr Ctibor Votrubec reported on the actual state and prospects of town geography in CSSR. Over the last 15 years, about 75 important articles and monographies on town geography were published, which represents nearly half (45%) of the total output in that field over the last 70 years. Unlike prewar literature, the socialist development of our country faced geographers with additional and quite new problems, such as the study of construction, the influence of five-year plans on town structure, the study of disappearing phenomena in towns, questions of production and distribution and others. The 15th anniversary finds this branch at high activity. At present, monographies on six towns are worked out, the problems of administrative town- and urban agglomeration boundaries are solved, commuting problems are studied, city and country relations and questions of city and suburb construction are dealt with. Dr Karel Kuchar reported on work in cartography, which has always served well geographic work in our country. He stressed the importance of the Government map collection which had, above all, cultural-historical tasks, and the importance of the 11 years of publication of the Kartograficky prehled (Cartographical Survey which was the only magazine of its kind in the whole world. Maps of our country were checked, as well as old map collections. Monumenta cartographica Bohemiae, Moraviae, Silesiae atque Sloveniae, are being made ready for the public.

Dr Kuchar presented their proofs to the audience. The quality of Czechoslovak cartography is internationally recognized. Now the main task is a National Atlas of CSSR. Next, Dr Kuchar spoke on the activity of the Central Committee of Geodesy and Cartography, where more than 30 geographers work, and where, since 1954, the editing of cartographic activity has been concentrated. The Cartography Cabinet prepared a dictionary of cartographic terminology, the first one of its kind; USGR is preparing a dictionary of geodesic terminology. Practical needs are very much taken into account and we try to have theory always precede practical needs. In his last report, Dr Oto Pokorny dealt with historical geography. Before World War II this discipline was developed in schools of higher education and ideas and tasks had been clarified. But only a few works have attempted a synthesis. A list of disappeared and newly founded localities was published; the extent of the Slavnikov Empire and tribe regions are under study. Much work is dedicated to the exploration of local names, on the basis of which the longtime past can be reconstructed. A cartographic study of industrialism since the 18th century is being done. It would be necessary to analyze the vegetative coverage of our country, the

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change of water-courses, and others. Of the greatest importance, however, is the exploration of recently past times. Historical geography was always an important field and more attention should be given to it also at Universities. As a close to the evening, the branch manager, Prof Dobersky, read letters of greeting which the Congress Delegates sent to the UVKSC, the governing body of CSAV, the Ministry of Education and to honorary members of the Society abroad. The audience expressed its consent by applause.

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