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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

(27 April - 3 May 1960)

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FOREWORD

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Source Coverage: 27 April - 3 May 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 27 April - 3 May 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

JP = Jihoceska Pravda (Ceske Budejovice)
NS = Nova Svoboda (Ostrava)
P = Pochoden (Hradec Kralove)
Pra = Pravda (Plzen)
Fru = Pruboj (Usti nad Labem)
R = Rovnost (Brno)
VN = Vychodoslovenske Noviny (Kosice)

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PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level

/See PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY and PART III. ECONOMIC
INFORMATION./

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

In rain and under heavy skies, 132,000 people took part in May Day celebrations in Ostrava and vicinity. A total of some 326,000 took part in the celebrations throughout North Moravian kraj. Soviet general M.M. PRONIN, one of the Soviet officers who entered Ostrava and liberated the city just 15 years ago, attended the Ostrava festivities. First secretary of the Party kraj committee, D. ROLDER, and a secretary of the CC CPCS, O. CER II, were the principal speakers. (S, 2 May 60, p 1)

A total of 418,835 people took part in the May Day celebrations in West Bohemian kraj. In the capital of the kraj, Plzen, some 70,000 people celebrated: 45,000 workers formed marching columns, while some 25,000 citizens cheered them from the sidewalks. Jan HLITA, first secretary of the Party kraj committee and candidate of the Politburo of the CC CPCS, was the main speaker. (Pra, 2 May 60, p 1)

More than 832,000 people marched on May Day in the towns and cities of South Moravian kraj. In the capital city of Brno alone, some 147,000 people marched through the streets, cheered from the sidewalks by another 80,000 men, women, and children. In spite of adverse, rainy weather, this 1960 May Day was the most jubilant, most massive celebration of the workers' day, a march towards peace and prosperity under the banners of Socialism. (R, 2 May 60, pp 1-3)

Over 330,000 people took part in May Day celebrations in South Bohemian kraj. In most towns the festivities were the largest and most elaborate since 1948. (JP, 3 May 60, pp 1-2)

More than 500,000 people took part in 73 manifestations and May Day celebrations in North Bohemian Kraj. Never before were these celebrations so beautiful and so joyful as in these days when completion of Socialism in our country is approaching and the first steps into Communism are soon to be made. (Pru, 3 May 60, pp 1-3)

Almost 600,000 workers of East Bohemian Kraj took part in May Day celebrations in 87 localities - a holiday of joy and of firm resolution to bring about the completion of Socialism in our country. (P, 3 May 60, pp 1-2)

Sergej Alexandrovich SUKAJEV, colonel of the Soviet Army, took part in the impressive May Day celebrations in Kosice, which were attended by tens of thousands of people. Emil CHLEBEC, first secretary of the Party kraj committee, was the principal speaker. (VN, 3 May 60, p 1)

Feverish pre-election activity is to be found in most towns and villages of North Moravian Kraj. Agitation centers are busy. Citizens are appraising the past work of the People's Council, meeting their candidates, and cooperating with agitators sent out by the plants to work in the centers. (NS, 3 May 60, p 1)

History has its own sense of irony : It was in Chicago in 1886 that the idea of May Day, the idea of an international workers' holiday, took root. At that time, American workers were fighting for an eight-hour day. The meeting was brutally broken up by the capitalists, who did not hesitate to shoot at the massed workers after their own henchmen threw bombs on police and military units. This horrible crime is still imprinted on their minds and does not let them sleep in peace. Moreover, seven innocent workers were later executed. One of them, Augustin Spies, uttered the following fateful words : "The time will come when our silence down in the grave will be more eloquent than all our words !"

And indeed, today we celebrate, for the 15th time since the last World War, our May Day - in a Socialist state headed by a Party and a government which has devoted 19,000,000,000 koruny, in a period of seven years, to continuous reductions in the price of food and consumer goods. And now let's imagine how much additional money could be devoted to the well-being of the people if the Paris summit meeting this May were to bring us the end of the cold war, and if this fateful year might mark the end of all future wars !

Unfortunately, there are still men in this world, some of them at head of states, who are conditioned in such a way that war is their main preoccupation. More furious than ever when the Soviet Union talks about peace and cooperation among nations, these people hate the beautiful month of May, the workers' holiday, and are raving mad at the sight of so many men and women, even in the West, who wish Nikita Khrushchev success in all his endeavors !

Fifteen years ago the Soviet Union robbed the capitalists of their victory : Today they are scared that once again the Soviet Union might rob them of the benefits of the cold war as well. (R, 1 May 60, p 1)

[An exchange of greetings between various mines, plants, and agricultural cooperatives was published in the Ostrava Party paper at the occasion of the May 1st "Workers' Day". Since just 15 years ago, on 1 May 1945, the "liberating" Soviet forces entered Ostrava, the enlarged May Day edition of the paper carried several greetings, commemorative articles, and photographs depicting the Red Army entering the city. (NS, 1 May 60, pp 1-5)]

The East Bohemian Kraj committee of the KSC, together with the kraj National Committee, are organizing an exhibition called "15 Victorious Years". The exhibition will be shown in Hradec Kralove from 7 May - 15 June 1960, and will be one of the largest agitation and cultural centers in the kraj. In addition to cultural and sports events on the exhibition grounds, there will be movie performances and talks by prominent personalities.

The exhibition will show the newest products of the kraj's industries - such as TV and radio sets from the "Tesla" plant in Pardubice, airplane models from the "Orlican" plant in Chocen, and others. Paintings and other works of art made during the past 15 years will be shown in a special exhibit. (P, 30 Apr 60, p 4)

Czechoslovakia already belongs among the countries with the highest standards of living in the world. This is the sum of the data published in a special feature of the East Slovakian Kraj newspaper, Vychodoslovenske Noviny. While in the United States and in other capitalist countries it is admitted that millions of families are suffering from hunger, lack of decent housing, and education for their children, in our country personal consumption has increased by 33.2 percent during the Second Five-Year Plan alone. (VN, 28 Apr 60, special

section)

The latest reduction of prices has been much discussed in the schools. The smallest children were most interested in learning whether toys and candies would be cheaper now, and girls were pleased to hear that dolls that open their eyes will cost up to 50 koruny less. The boys, of course, asked first about roller skates and planes and such things, all of which were reduced in price. And boys and girls jointly "approved" the Party and government decision to make a number of chocolate and other candies cost less than before. (Pra, 29 Apr 60, p 1)

Last Sunday was a major test for agitation centers in Plzen, West Bohemian Kraj : 3,293 agitators were dispatched to invite citizens personally to the May Day Rally. In almost every agitation center there are daily events such as discussions and entertainment programs. Many apartment houses compete for the best outside decoration, and each of them is aided by a member of the Czechoslovak Association of Graphic Arts and a professional display man. Neon signs and public address systems are being readied for the great day. (Pra, 27 Apr 60, p 1)

The No 5 agitation center in Kromeriz, South Moravian Kraj, had a busy Sunday : 60 agitator couples visited citizens of 21 streets to invite them personally to attend the First of May rally. During these visits, the citizens spontaneously offered new pledges of brigade labor as an expression of joy over the latest price reduction. (R, 27 Apr 60, p 3)

At a KSC street organization meeting in Poruba, North Moravian Kraj, the chairman informed the overflow audience of candidates to be elected to the city and kraj National Committees and to the National Assembly. He also presented to the audience ten comrades who will be elected to the local ward National Committee subdivision. (NS, 28 Apr 60, p 2)

[In the "Aid to Agitators" column.] As we are now discussing the draft of our new Constitution, it is well to recall that in 1920, when the first Constitution of the pre-Munich republic was enacted, the people had no such opportunity. The draft was kept secret and even the National Assembly deputies received its text only a few days before the debate. The bourgeoisie knew what it was doing, as the Constitution was nothing else but an instrument to confirm its hegemony.

In our new Constitution, representative organs elected by

the people concentrate in their hands both legislative and executive power. There is no separation of powers which allows the elected organs only deliberative powers but places executive power into the hands of bureaucrats recruited from the ranks of the bourgeoisie and exercising a dictatorship on its behalf. (R, 27 Apt 60, p 2)

About a year ago, the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in Plzen, West Bohemian Kraj, got in touch with the Engineering Faculty in Karl-Marx-Stadt, in the GDR. The exchange of letters grew into personal contact, and an agreement on permanent cooperation was signed recently between the two university faculties. As reported by the Plzen delegation which just returned from Karl-Marx-Stadt, this includes exchange of : experience and scientific information, students for summer practice, teachers, textbooks, etc. A Friendship Week is to be held each year, alternately in Plzen and in Karl-Marx-Stadt. Plzen will be the host in 1961. (Pra, 29 Apr 60, p 3)

The other day, the math class in the 8-year middle school in Plzen-Skvrnany, West Bohemian Kraj, was devoted to calculations of how much the children's parents will save by the free supplying of textbooks. The Pioneers suggested that as an expression of thanks to the Party and government for this measure, each pupil should collect at least two kilograms of old paper. (Pra, 29 Apt 60, p 1)

An exhibit dealing with local KSC history in the 1921-1945 period will be opened in Vrchlabi, East Bohemian Kraj. It will contain materials and documents on joint meetings of Czech and German Communists between 1921-1933, their participation in the Spanish war, etc. [The item is accompanied by a reproduction of one of the exhibits, a German-language poster dated 1936 and issued on the "Fraternization Day of Czech and German workers in Nachod.]

The fourth annual kraj festival of amateur theater groups, to be held in Tabor, South Bohemian Kraj, will be opened on 1 May 1960. This year it is taking place as part of the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation and therefore all plays performed by the amateur ensembles are by Soviet playwrights. (JP, 30 Apr 60, p 5)

A Czechoslovak flag will be placed on top of the country's highest peak, the "Stalin" Peak in the Tatra Mountains, in honor of the 15th anniversary of Ostrava's liberation. This

feat was pledged by a three-man group from the youngest troop of mountain climbers in the Ostrava region, the "Frenstat" Spartak of North Moravian Kraj. (MS, 28 Apr 60, p 6)

Pioneers from the 12-year school in Prelouc, East Bohemian Kraj, write that they were discussing the free supplying of textbooks. "Comrade teacher told us that these supplies will cost 400,000,000 koruny. It is hard for us even to imagine such a large amount. Therefore, we thank the Communist Party and the government for this gift to us. At the same time we pledge to be good students, so as to become model citizens of the future Communist society." (P, 30 Apr 60, p 4)

A 100-member delegation of Pioneers, CSM members, and teachers visited the office of the East Slovakian Kraj Slovak CP committee in Kosice to express the warm thanks of all pupils for the Party and government decision to make textbooks and school aids available free of charge.

During the visit, the pupils pledged to work 250,000 hours of brigade labor before the end of the school year [sic]. (VN, 28 Apr 60, p 2)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The North Bohemian brown coal basin is expected to extract 52,034,000 tons of coal in 1965, a 33.6 percent increase over the 1960 output. Of this total, 41,589 tons are to be obtained from open pits and the rest from underground mines. This means a faster growth of open pit production, which is expected to increase by 47.3 percent over 1960 output.

During the Third Five-Year Plan, the basin will centralize its coal washing and processing operations. Underground mines will transport their output to the new "Herkules" and "Ledvice" washing plants, with the latter serving the eastern part of the basin. These plants will be built during the Third Five-Year Plan. From there, the coal will go to power plants, including the new ones in the "Stalin" Works and at Chotejovice. Some small washing plants will be preserved, and new ones will be constructed for newly opened open pits in the Chomutov and Slatinice area.

Experiments with underground gassification of coal will be completed during the Third Five-Year Plan. These involve coal deposits which cannot be extracted by normal mining methods. The Borislavice experiment is now concluded, and another is being conducted near the village of Drouzkovice-Berzno in the Chomutov area. The results will determine the feasibility of larger power plant facilities for burning the gas.

Under the investment program for the coal basin, 17.9 percent of the funds are allocated for housing construction and 65.8 percent for Transport Ministry purposes. The latter projects involve the relocation of roads and railroad tracks, necessitated by the expansion of mining operations. The largest projects of this kind include work on the Most-Trebusice, Trebusice-Vrskman, and Most-Obrnice-Bilina-Oldrichov routes. Of the 2,010-kilometer total length of connecting roads in the basin, about 120 kilometers will have to be relocated by 1970. Expansion of mining will also result in destruction of 1,733 apartments. Funds have been allocated for their replacement. (Pru, 28 Apr 60, p 3)

"Geskoslovenske Naftove Doly" (Czechoslovak Petroleum Wells), a national enterprise in Hodonin, South Moravian Kraj, held a technical-economic conference to discuss Third Five-Year Plan tasks. In 1965, the wells are expected to extract 53 percent more oil than in 1960. The volume of geological prospecting is to increase by 14.2 percent, and basic prospecting by 56.7 percent in the same period. The employees pledged a further increase of 105,000 tons in oil production.

However, the enterprise has certain shortcomings which must be eliminated. Various failures - and their elimination - caused a loss of 17,000,000 koruny last year. The Breclav wells failed to fulfill the 1959 plan in output and volume of prospecting work. And technical personnel did not appreciate some of the new working methods. (R, 27 Apr 60, p 3)

The automobile plant in Kvasiny, West Bohemian Kraj, is starting production of a new type of passenger car. It is the Skoda "Octavia Combi" station wagon, the first passenger car of our manufacture available in this style. (Pra, 30 Apr 60, p 2)

A huge new plant for utilization of brown coal enters its final construction phase in Tisova, near Sokolovo, West Bohemian Kraj. Right in the middle of the brown coal pits, a new plant for sorting coal grew up; then a thermic power station

was added and, finally, a new plant for the production of briquets has been built. The power station will be the largest of its kind in Czechoslovakia. The briquet plant is to start trial production this month [May 1960]. [Photographs attached: Photograph No 1 shows the plant producing briquets; No 2 the plant for sorting brown coal; No 3, the thermic power station.] (Pra, 1 May 60, p 3)

A new modern foundry is nearing completion in Vsetin, North Moravian Kraj. It is to be the most up-to-date of all Czechoslovak foundries and will be attached to the "Moravske Elektrotechnicke Zavody" (Moravian Electrotechnical Works) in Vsetin. Construction of the plant has already been completed and installations are half-finished. There will be three production lines : one - and most important - a semi-automatic line producing machines for casting. This particular line will comprise half of the entire capacity of the works and only 14 people will service it. The second line will be a fully-automated sand-blowing line, and the third will be a manual foundry for hand-casting of large molds. Production is planned to start by 1 July 1960. (NS, 30 Apr 60, p 1)

The No 2 blast furnace in the "NHKG" metallurgical combine in Kuncice, North Moravian Kraj, has been pouring forth raw iron for seven years without interruption. But in May of this year it will stop for a general overhaul which will cost 28,000,000 koruny. This will result in a practically new blast furnace, giving 10-15 percent more raw iron for the same input and at considerable savings of coke. The overhaul will take two months and engage 700-800 men daily. (NS, 28 Apr 60, p 2)

Ostrava-Karvina coal mines in North Moravian Kraj did not fare well in April 1960 when coal output remained 15,822 tons below the plan. However, the debt has been reduced somewhat during the last few days, and the "Zapotocky", "Stalin", "Bezruc", and "Doubrava" mines, which showed the largest output failures, are being aided by brigades dispatched by the Party kraj committee. (NS, 27 Apr 60, p 1)

The progress of the last 15 years is visible on every side in Uhersky Brod, South Moravian Kraj. Take just the "Slovacke Strojirny" plant : The surveyors came in 1949, and two years later this large engineering plant was already in operation. Portal cranes manufactured here are at work all over the country. Special drilling equipment made in the "Slovacke Strojirny" has the best reputation in geological and coal

prospecting. Early in the Third Five-Year Plan, the plant will begin manufacture of equipment for the chemical industry. (R, 27 Apr 60, p 1)

West Bohemian Kraj plants, too, celebrated the historic May Day 1960 - which also marks the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet forces - by committing themselves to new and higher production goals. Let the figures speak for themselves : The plants of West Bohemian Kraj solidified their production goals for 1960 and will produce goods above the planned quotas in the amount of 159,971,000 koruny. Some 12,000,000 koruny will be saved through reductions in the cost of production. Investments will be cut by 300,000,000 koruny by dropping some of the planned constructions or by reconstruction and modernization of existing installations. In agriculture, citizens of West Bohemian Kraj will spend over 90,000 working hours on various irrigation and land reclamation projects - free of charge. At least 100,000 man-hours more will be freely given, in the form of voluntary brigades, to beautification of our towns and communes. (Pra, 1 May 60, p 1)

A number of enterprises in North Moravian Kraj celebrated the First of May holiday ahead of time and fulfilled various production pledges made for the workers' festive day. Moreover, several towns of the kraj, with the effective help of citizens, completed certain public works, such as the new hall of the Olomouc railroad station, just in time for the celebrations. Miners in the Ostrava-Karvina basin hauled 5,050 additional tons of coal, thus fulfilling the Plan by 106.5 percent. However, there is still an April "debt" outstanding of 1,412 tons. (NS, 30 Apr 60, p 1)

In South Moravian Kraj, 88,221 citizens participated in the kraj-wide national work-shift on 23-24 April 1960. They put in more than 300,000 hours of work on land amelioration projects and the tidying up of communities. Some 297,400 cubic meters of compost were established. Thus, the national work-shift again demonstrated clearly the initiative of the people and the unbreakable alliance of our workers and peasants. (JP, 30 Apr 60, p 1)

Socialist competition remains the order of the day in our largest railroad junction at Ceska Trebova, East Bohemian Kraj. Among the latest pledges adopted in honor of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation is one to increase the daily runs of electric locomotives from 444.7 to 500 kilo-

meters, make operational savings worth several million koruny, and other measures aimed at better utilization of rolling stock. (P, 28 Apr 60, p 1)

When the 1960 production plan for West Bohemian Kraj was being discussed, there were many complaints that its targets were too high and difficult to meet. There were not only protests, but even instances of determination not to accept the plan, which were often fully backed by Party and trade union organizations.

There is no denying that the industrial production tasks are considerable and cannot be met easily. But the facts show that it is possible to fulfill them. During the first quarter of 1960, industrial production in West Bohemian Kraj was 14.4 percent higher than during the same period of 1959. As most enterprises continue to demand more investment funds and allocated manpower for the Third Five-Year Plan that it is possible to provide, 1960 plan fulfillment must serve as a check on what can be done under present conditions. (Pra, 29 Apr 60, pp 1,2)

D. SAMBU, chairman of the presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic, visited several enterprises during his short stay in Gottwaldov, South Moravian Kraj. These included the "Zavody Presneho Strojirenstvi" (Precise Engineering Works), which recently supplied full machine equipment for a new shoemaking factory in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. (R, 28 Apr 60, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Nearly 25 percent of all crimes and misdemeanors in West Bohemian Kraj are traceable to the effects of alcohol, and 17 percent of the divorces among young couples are due to alcoholism. (Pra, 27 Apr 60, p 3)

The price reduction resulted in unusually large sales of merchandise. Last Sunday, stores in Plzen, West Bohemian Kraj, were beleaguered by long queues and reported sales more than double the usual volume. The buyers were particularly interested in leather shoes and other leather goods, as

well as in canned fish imported from the USSR. (Pra, 27 Apr
60, p 1)

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