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1. Alcoholism and Drug Addiction -- New Legislation

The enactment of a new law on the protection of society against alcoholism and drug addiction has been in the works for some time in Czechoslovakia. In the Czech Lands the bill was drafted at the end of last year, and according to Radio Hvezda (2 December 1976) "it will be submitted to the Czech National Council for approval within the next few months." The preparation of this legislation is even further advanced in Slovakia, where the Slovak National Council approved it in the fall of last year and the Slovak government did so in the spring months of this year (Radio Hvezda, 10 April 1977). It has not been announced why its promulgation has been delayed; it is apparently still being carefully studied by the federal bodies concerned.

The new law will replace Law No.120/1962 on the struggle against alcoholism. That law was enacted, as stated in the preamble, in order to ensure that "all state agencies and societal, economic, and other organizations co-ordinate efforts in the struggle against alcoholism." This struggle was co-ordinated and methodically directed by a newly established Central Anti-Alcoholism Board at the Ministry of Health. In the regions and districts this effort was directed by the national committees, which set up regional, district, local, and municipal anti-alcoholism boards to guide the drive. For Slovakia an Anti-Alcoholism Board at the Presidium of the Slovak National Council was also set up by Law No.45/1967.

Law No.120/1962 was not the only one concerned with anti-alcoholism. Earlier, Section 201 of the Criminal Code imposed penalties for drunkenness, and Law No.60/1961 spelled out the tasks of the national committees in preserving socialist order. A later step was Government Decision No.121/1973 approving measures against alcoholism and addiction to other intoxicants, in the sectors of

education and the health service and of production and distribution. The Labor Code was also an instrument in the struggle against alcoholism on the job. An amendment to this code made it the duty of workers to undergo examinations to find whether they have taken alcohol or other intoxicants (Praca, 31 March 1976). Finally, Law No.100/75, the Highway Code, also contains provisions designed to wipe out alcoholism.

Unfortunately, all these measures, legal and otherwise, have proved incapable of suppressing alcoholism. As Tribuna (13 April 1977) reported, the efforts of the anti-alcoholism boards were not uniformly successful; the article also cites a case in which the above-mentioned law was circumvented. Osvetova Prace (No.7, April 1975) wrote in an even more critical vein, stating that the anti-alcoholism boards had not been working in a sufficiently systematic manner, that the higher boards had failed to provide satisfactory guidance to the lower ones and the national committees took no interest in their efforts.

On the other hand, personal expenditure on alcohol rose substantially in recent years, as can be seen from a comparison, in million Kcs, of 1965 and 1975.

	1965	1975
Total retail turnover of the socialist sector in food products	63,452	100,642
Retail turnover in alcohol	9,367	18,706
In the Czech Lands	6,268	11,705
In Slovakia	3,099	7,001
<u>Source:</u> <u>Statisticka Rocenka CSSR</u> , 1967 and 1976.		

Thus, country-wide expenditure on alcoholic drinks doubled, while in Slovakia it was even higher. The cost of alcohol accounts for almost one fifth of the population's total expenditure on food and drink. Per capita consumption of alcohol, measured in its pure state, i.e., 100 per cent, rose from 6.9 liters in 1965 to 9.1 liters in 1972 (Statisticka Rocenka CSSR, 1976), although subsequently it dropped again to about 8.5 liters in 1975 (Radio Hvezda, 2 December 1976).

Inevitably, there was an accompanying rise in the adverse consequences of drinking. In 1965, for example 87,000 persons registered at advisory centers for alcoholics in Czechoslovakia, although the real number of people in need of such advice was

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estimated by specialists at 200,000. At that time, more than 20 per cent of all criminal offenses were committed under the influence of alcohol, and drink was the cause of every seventh divorce (Pravda, 25 March 1967).

In 1975, about 30 per cent of all persons coming to trial on criminal charges had committed offenses under the influence of alcohol, a total of 43,446 persons (Zemedske Noviny, 21 February 1977). Some 14 per cent of all marriages, or 4,608 of them, were dissolved in 1974 because of drinking problems, compared to 2,576 in 1965 (Statisticka Rocenka CSSR, 1967 and 1976). About 20 per cent of the children in children's hostels are from families of alcoholics, and drink was the cause of 6.5 per cent of all traffic accidents in 1975 (Rude Pravo, 4 December 1976). In 1976, the advisory centers for alcoholics in the whole of the republic had over 155,000 clients (Radio Hvezda, 10 April 1977). An earlier radio program broadcast by that station (2 December 1976) mentioned the figure of 300,000 alcoholics in the Czech Lands alone. During the past 10 years, Praca (9 November 1976) stated, neurotic cases of alcoholism had increased by 25 per cent and cases of delirium tremens by 50 per cent. Moreover, alcoholism is one of the causes of absenteeism, fluctuations in the accident rate, and also misbehavior of various types that disturbs the peace.

Officials of the Czech Ministry of Health and the Anti-Alcoholism Board told newsmen that the new law will contain stricter provisions against those who break the law, will regulate the sale and serving of alcohol, and will enhance the powers of the national committees and anti-alcoholism boards (Czechoslovak Television, 2 December 1976). The law also strengthens the role of the government in supervising efforts to prevent alcoholism and addiction to other intoxicants, reinforces protective measures, and makes it possible to prosecute persons and organizations for failure to discharge their duties. Organizations or factories failing to comply with the law, for example, can be fined up to 100,000 Kcs for neglecting their legal obligations, and in the case of individuals fines can be imposed whose top limit will be three times the size of an offender's monthly pay. The new law also amends the regulations concerning remittances payable by an alcoholic to his wife or another dependent. In Slovakia, it has been proposed that the Slovak government try a new approach, by creating a commission for protection against alcoholism and other forms of addiction. Similar commissions are to be set up at the national committees at all levels. These commissions will submit proposals and observe and evaluate the activity of the anti-alcoholism advisory centers, detention stations for alcoholics, the standard of for outpatient and hospitalized patients' cures, the consumption of alcoholic drinks, etc. (Radio Hvezda, 10 April 1977). The same type of commissions will probably be set up in the Czech Lands, so that an equal organizational structure is maintained.

Although the emphasis of the new law is on the struggle against alcoholism, the growing number of cases of so-called abusive use of

noxious chemical substances has apparently prompted the authorities to deal with these problems "from broader aspects," that is, to protect society not only from the adverse influence of the use of alcohol but also from that of other habit-forming substances (Zemedelske Noviny, 9 June 1977). The argument has also been put forth that, during the past 15 years, the chemical and pharmaceutical industries have produced new substances and medicines that can be termed psychedelic, and which are being misused. Since Czechoslovak society is well aware of the harm drug addiction causes, however, it is said that society is trying to prevent such addiction. That is why production and distribution of narcotics is strictly supervised. Since 1974, the free sale of some medicines which may do harm to health if used excessively or for an extended period has been restricted. Nevertheless, although the strongest painkillers can only be obtained on a physicians's prescription, prescription forms and rubber-stamps can be stolen from medical facilities and pharmacies. It is therefore demanded that these articles be kept in such way that they cannot fall into the hands of unauthorized persons.

Whenever the regime information media or political figures and specialists discuss the subject of alcoholism, they avoid mention of its causes. From the ideological point of view, an antisocietal activity of this kind actually ought not exist in a socialist society. To blame persisting bourgeois survivals or habits -- after a quarter of a century of communist rule -- would hardly be accepted any longer, so the matter is simply passed over in silence. There is the same lack of explanation for the excessive use of tranquilizers, which indicates the widespread existence of neuroses in a society "where no citizen suffers fear about his existence and where care is taken of everyone's future." No explanation is offered why, for instance, the annual consumption of painkillers increased fivefold between 1964 and 1974 (Rovnost, 27 January 1976).

A ready answer is found for the use of hallucinatory drugs and other chemical substances with similar effect mainly by young people. The cause is "the bad influence of the West," whence "Western tourists and Czechoslovak refugees of the years of 1968-1969," who later returned home, imported this abusive habit into Czechoslovakia. And the Czechoslovak press refers quite frequently to the proliferation of drug addiction in the West, primarily in the US, where the young in particular try to escape "from harsh social reality into the more pleasant world of hallucination" by means of narcotics (Zemedelske Noviny, 9 June 1977). As a Ceteka report (12 April 1977) admitted, however, the increase in the number of drug addicts in Czechoslovakia dates back as far as 1965, allegedly as a result of the growing influence of tourists from capitalist countries. Between 1968 and 1972 the courts tried 658 cases, but thanks to strict punishment and extensive preventive measures, it is claimed that the number of drug addicts has dropped to a minimum. As far as deaths from narcotics are concerned -- nine persons died in 1973, eight persons in 1974, twenty five persons in 1975, and eighteen

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persons in 1976. Among the most frequently used drugs the Ceteka report lists hashish, marijuana, barbiturates, and only to an insignificant degree heroin. They are smuggled into Czechoslovakia by Western tourists, but also by African students -- according to the same report -- and 50 kg. of hashish were confiscated that had been smuggled in from Afghanistan and Lebanon in 1972 and 1973.

Since the strict security measures employed at the Czechoslovak frontiers prevent most of these substances from getting into Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovak drug addicts obtain what they need through breaking into pharmacies or stealing prescription forms, or they sniff the vapors of various chemicals, such as certain detergents or solvents. As mentioned above, however, it is only thanks to the very strict measures -- based on Section 187 of the Criminal Code -- that the number of drug addicts is as small as official figures indicate.

2. Premilitary Education and the Prague International Youth Seminar on Disarmament

From 21 to 23 June 1977, the European Conference of Working Youth and Students held a seminar on disarmament and questions of peace, in Prague (Radio Prague, 23 June 1977). In an interview over Radio Hvezda (20 June 1977) the head of the Czechoslovak delegation, Karel Lukas, a member of the secretariat of the Socialist Youth Union, stated that the purpose of the seminar was to prepare for a European conference of progressive youth on disarmament, which "will be one of the most important international events for young people and students this year." According to Lukas, the Prague preparatory seminar was intended to express and meaningfully develop the participation of the younger generation on the continent in the struggle for peace, the lessening of international tension, stopping the armament race and militarization, and to adopt concrete measures leading toward disarmament "in the interest not only of European but of world-wide peace." The Radio Hvezda commentator Miroslav Langer remarked that "an increasingly broad circle of the young, students, and their organizations commit themselves to the cause of peace and friendship among nations" (Radio Hvezda, 20 June 1977).

His words seem to be in sharp contrast with a campaign in the Czechoslovak information media which calls for stepping up pre-military and military education. Back in September 1975, officials of the Czech Ministry of Education declared that, in the coming years, a further great development and qualitative improvement of military education at all schools, including apprentice training classes, must become a prominent feature of the teaching program (Radio Prague, 12 September 1975). They added that the training of all teachers in legal, and primarily political, documents that concretely concern military education in the over-all Czechoslovak

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school system must be substantially improved. Launching of the Informacni Buletin Odбору Branne Vychovy Ministerstva Skolstvi (Information Bulletin of the Military Education Division, Ministry of Education) was the first specific step in this direction. Both in the Czech Lands and in Slovakia, not even kindergartens are exempt from military education, in accordance with the Soviet model.

At present, increased attention is being devoted to pre-military education in the individual teaching subjects. Felix Cernoch, writing in the Czech Ministry of Education's Socialisticka Skola (No.9/1977), devotes a lengthy analysis to the aim of communist education, which he writes is to develop the personality of a builder and defender of the socialist homeland. Therefore, this purpose must permeate every school subject, so that it can meet the requirements demanded of education toward military preparedness (brannost): "Military education in the individual subjects of study consists of especially emphasizing matters of an expressly military nature. It is important that we not only register the military aspect, but chiefly that we organize it in a planned manner." According to Cernoch, it is necessary "to select points that are the most relevant in military respects" in every subject, and to prepare the lessons of military education accordingly. The military element cannot be equally prominent in every subject; however, as Cernoch declares, every subject must contribute toward premilitary education through its specific content.

For the realization of these tasks, Cernoch suggests that following procedure:

1. Subjects of instruction should be divided into primarily (directly) military-related and secondarily (indirectly) military-related subjects, depending on their military relevance. Those military subjects have primary relevance which contain clear-cut military instruction and thus directly influence premilitary education, while secondary, military-related subjects exert an indirect effect through their impact.
2. Attention should be concentrated on teaching matter that is primarily military in nature, and those points which are most important as far as the military aspect is concerned ought to be selected from it.
3. This teaching matter should be concentrated in lessons of military preparedness in character, and thus education toward military preparedness should actually be concentrated in these lessons.

According to Cernoch, this method promises far better results than the existing practice. It makes it possible to change the registration of the elements of education toward military preparedness into their planned organization, he says. The individual subjects serve the aims and tasks of military preparedness education through the teaching matter as such, with emphasis on its military aspects. Cernoch cites geography as an example; when, for instance, the economic-political system of individual state forms are expounded, the trend of their military policies should also be emphasized

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(Turkey -- a NATO member, the Polish People's Republic -- a member of the Warsaw Pact; the US -- the main imperialist power, an enemy of peace).

The author cites Russian-language courses as another example. The Russian language, he maintains, undoubtedly possesses a military preparedness element of its own, since it is the language of communication of the Warsaw Pact armies. Moreover, the Russian language also teaches admiration for the USSR and its army, Cernoch asserts.

The mother tongue and literary education can substantially contribute toward deepening military preparedness education as well. Cernoch cites books on Jan Zizka and Janosik (the Husite army leader and a Slovak Robin Hood, respectively), or from modern literature General Ludvik Svoboda's book Z Buzuluku do Prahy (From Buzuluk to Prague) or Petr Jilemnicky's chronicle on the Slovak National Uprising, Vitr se Vraci (The Wind Is Turning Back), and many others as concrete examples. In mathematics, the teacher ought to concentrate on topographical work, or on the solution of trigonometric problems, etc.

According to Cernoch, civic education assumes a special position. This subject "molds the military preparedness profile of the citizen, just as it does his working profile; it acquaints pupils with the concept of the homeland, with revolutionary fighting traditions, and leads them toward socialist statehood and toward observance of law, including civil military duties."

Physical training is one of the most important components of military preparedness education, he says. Here, preference is to be given to physical exercises serving military preparedness, such as throwing hand grenades, military swimming, endurance tests in the field, etc. Some time ago, Jarmila Landmanova emphasized in an article (Spolecenske Vedy ve Skole No.8, April 1975) that the young must acquire a solid Marxist-Leninist approach toward questions of war and peace, the army, and defense of the state, on the basis of objective natural laws which lead to the outbreak of a war. It is necessary, she wrote, that pupils understand the class substance of imperialism as the source of all wars in the world of today and "the possibility of the danger of a third world war, and the changes in the mutual balance of power in favor of progress." The danger of war will exist as long as two different world systems, the capitalistic and the socialist, continue to exist, Landmanova wrote. "If we speak about the next world war, we have in mind wars of the imperialistic camp against the socialist countries: that is, a world war."

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CORRECTION: Czechoslovak Situation Report/23, Item 3, change the first sentence of text to read:

On Monday, 13 June 1977, the apostolic administrator of Prague, Bishop Frantisek Tomasek, arrived by plane in Rome (making it clear that he is still the apostolic administrator of Prague).