

BS + JP  
Jan 21  
III-4313 G

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COMMUNIST PARTY /0600/  
Personalities /0606/

STATE APPARATUS /4400/  
Ministries /4404/

A COMMUNIST TOP OFFICIAL IN DISGRACE.

SOURCE BERLIN: A 52-year-old lawyer, born in Austria, but a German citizen through his father. During the Nazi era he was a high NSDAP functionary in POZNAN and then in PRAGUE. After the war, the "People's court" in PRAGUE sentenced him to 20 years imprisonment. He was in many Czech jails and finally, in June 1954 landed in ILAVA where he remained until the end of October 1955, when he was repatriated to Germany.

Source learned the below-mentioned facts from a fellow-prisoner who worked at the Czechoslovak Foreign Office prior to his arrest.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: End of 1954.

ENGLISH SYNOPSIS: HENSCHEL /fnu/ a Czech Jew, who founded the PRAGUE political police /STB/ in 1945, was recalled from his post as minister to Korea at the end of 1954, and assigned a job with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was worried about his future and regretted his rigorous attitude toward the Germans after the war which prevented him from fleeing to Germany.

EVAL. COMMENT: HENSCHEL /fnu/ is UNCONFIRMED in this office. He, however, might be identical with Emil HRŠEL who, according to background material available at the ČS. Evaluation Desk, spent several years at Soviet universities before World War II. We do not know where he was during the war, but his present

/more/

function -- he is a member of the Central Committee of the Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, an organization of former concentration camps inmates -- indicates the possibility that he has been held in fact in a concentration camp.

No details on HRŠEL's role at the establishment of the political police are available here; on the other hand, it is known from official sources that he was appointed chief of the Department of the Interior of the former "Land-National Committee" Bohemia /"Zemský národní výbor"/ on February 26 1948; this department controlled political police units.

In early 1950 HRŠEL was appointed ČSR Envoy to Afghanistan. Since September 1950 he has been Czechoslovak Minister to North-Korea; from June 1951 until March 1953 he was acting as chief of the ČSR Mission in East Germany, then he became "chief of the German section at the ČSR Foreign Ministry and cooperator of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak CP" / see RFE Monitoring of July 8 and December 7 1954./ The last entry on his personal card is dated April 18 1955.

In view of the above cited facts the information under reference seems unlikely.

X X X X

/fnu/ HERSCHEL, český Žid, který v roce 1945 byl vedoucím ZOB /Zemský odbor bezpečnosti/ v PRAZE II, Vrchlického sady, a později se stal vyslancem v KOREJI, byl koncem roku 1954 volán zpět do centrály a pracuje nyní v obchodním oddělení ministerstva zahraničních věcí. Je velmi neklidný a rád by utekl, má však strach, že v Německu anebo vůbec na Západě by mohl být postaven před soud pro zločiny spáchané pod jeho velením u ZOB. Rekl: "Nemohu pochopit, co mne 1945 popadlo, že jsem se dal na-verbovat na tu funkci. Snad to byla zlost, kterou jsem měl na Němce po tom, co se mnou dělali za války /byl zavlčen do OSVĚ-TIMI/. Měl jsem na to myslet, že vývoj není u konce a že možná jednoho dne budu rád, když najdu útočiště u těch, kteří jsou mne vydání na milost a nemilost !"

E n d .