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### S I T U A T I O N   R E P O R T

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#### 1. Construction of Transgas Pipeline Continues

The map at the end of this item will help to clarify the description of the network of natural gas pipelines given below.

On 7 September 1977 the 50,000 millionth cubic meter of natural gas passed through the Czechoslovak sector of the East-West Transgas pipeline. Transgas, which became operational in January 1973, carries Soviet natural gas to Central and Western Europe. It has served Czechoslovakia, Austria, the FRG, and the GDR since 1973, Italy since 1974, and France since 1976 (Radio Prague, 7 September 1977).

Originally a single pipeline, Transgas's sections were brought into operation successively. It consists of the following parts: the main (eastern) section, 419 km. long with pipes of 1,200 mm. diameter, runs from the Czechoslovak-Soviet border to Plavecky Peter in eastern Slovakia. This is the main distribution point of the transit pipeline and from there a 47-km. branch leads to Baumgarten in Austria and a 563-km. (middle) section goes to Zlonice in the Central Bohemian region with a pipe diameter of 900 mm. There the line divides into two branches, one ending at Rozvadov on the FRG border and the other at Hora Sv. Kateriny on the frontier with the GDR. The first 1,000 million m<sup>3</sup> of Soviet natural gas passed through Transgas by June 1973, 10,000 million by November 1974, and 20,000 million by November 1975 (Horpodarske Noviny No. 28, 15 July 1977).

In view of the growing international interest in Soviet natural gas, especially in the West European states, it is intended to increase the capacity of the line. It has taken four and three quarter years for the first 50,000 million m<sup>3</sup> to flow through Transgas, but

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the second 50,000 million are expected to be delivered within the next two years (Radio Prague, 7 September 1977). The original agreement on the construction of the line on Czechoslovak territory (signed in December 1970) envisioned an annual capacity of 28,000 million m<sup>3</sup> by 1980, whereas it is now planned to reach 37,000 million by that year (see Czechoslovak Situation Report/32, Radio Free Europe Research, 13 August 1975, Item 3, and Technicky Tydenik No. 34, 24 August 1977). Of the increased volume of gas that will flow from 1980 onward, 60 per cent is to be supplied to the FRG, Austria, Italy, and France, while the rest will be consumed by Czechoslovakia, the GDR, and Yugoslavia -- apart from a small proportion used for operating compressor stations on the Czechoslovak section of the line (Svet Hospodarstvi No. 104, 30 August 1977).

The increase in capacity is being effected in two ways: by gradually doubling the original single sections of the pipeline, and by the construction of a separate new pipeline, the so-called southern branch. The laying of twin pipes for the 563-km. middle section was finished in September 1976 and the doubling of the 419-km. eastern section is scheduled for completion by the end of this year (Hospodarske Noviny No. 12, 25 March 1977).

Work on the construction of the new branch of the line is in progress; it will carry gas direct from the Soviet Union to the FRG, will have pipes of 800 mm. diameter, and will run from Plavecky Peter, where it links up with the main eastern section of Transgas, through western Slovakia, southern Moravia, and southern Bohemia to the FRG border at Rozvadov. Its route will thus be independent of that taken by the middle section of the existing pipeline.

The information on the construction of this southern branch thus far released by the Czechoslovak media has contained contradictory estimates of its length and completion date. Svet Hospodarstvi (No. 84, 15 July 1976) reported that the southern branch will be 459 km. long and will be finished on 1 October 1977, but five days later the same journal (No. 86, 20 July 1976) -- making no reference to its earlier story -- mentioned a length of 448 km. and a starting date of 1 October 1978. The latest report (Radio Prague, 7 September 1977) said that 400 km. had been completed, so it seems unlikely that the whole of the new pipeline will be in operation this year.

To move the gas through the expanded Transgas system 10 compressor stations are under construction. Power will be provided by 6 mw. turbo-aggregates of Czechoslovak manufacture. A measuring, information, and regulating system equipped with third generation computers will handle the basic technical problems of gas flow (Svet Hospodarstvi No. 104, 30 August 1977).

In this, the fifth, year of the pipeline's operation, it is to be expanded by a record length of 867 km. (Svet Hospodarstvi No. 6, 14 January 1977). Currently a total of 2,180 km. of line is in use on Czechoslovak territory and 60,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas pass through it daily. The annual capacity of the system is expected to reach 22,500 million m<sup>3</sup> by the end of this year (Pravda, 26 July 1977).

Czechoslovakia is entitled to draw 4,500 million m<sup>3</sup> of Soviet natural gas for its own requirements. In 1976 the corresponding figure was 4,200 million, of which Czechoslovakia received 3,000 million under the terms of the trade agreement with the USSR, while the remaining 1,200 million were in lieu of transit fees. The sixth five-year plan for 1976-1980 anticipates total imports of 19,500 million m<sup>3</sup> of gas through the Transgas pipeline (Radio Hvezda, 9 December 1976). There has been no reference so far to financial compensation for the construction and maintenance of the line and its associated equipment being paid by the Soviet Union.

For 1978 the start of construction is planned of a new independent pipeline running across Czechoslovakia with an annual capacity of 17,000 million m<sup>3</sup>. This pipeline, to be known as the "Iranian" line, will carry 13,500 million m<sup>3</sup> of Soviet natural gas each year to West European states in compensation for Iranian gas purchased from Iran by a consortium of West European firms which Iran will then deliver to the USSR. The partners in this switch deal are the FRG's Ruhrgas corporation, the French firm Gaz de France, the Austrian Oesterreichische Mineraloel Verwaltung, and Swiss and Belgian companies. The purpose of the arrangement is to reduce transport costs, which would be substantially greater if the Iranian natural gas were transported directly from Iran to the West.

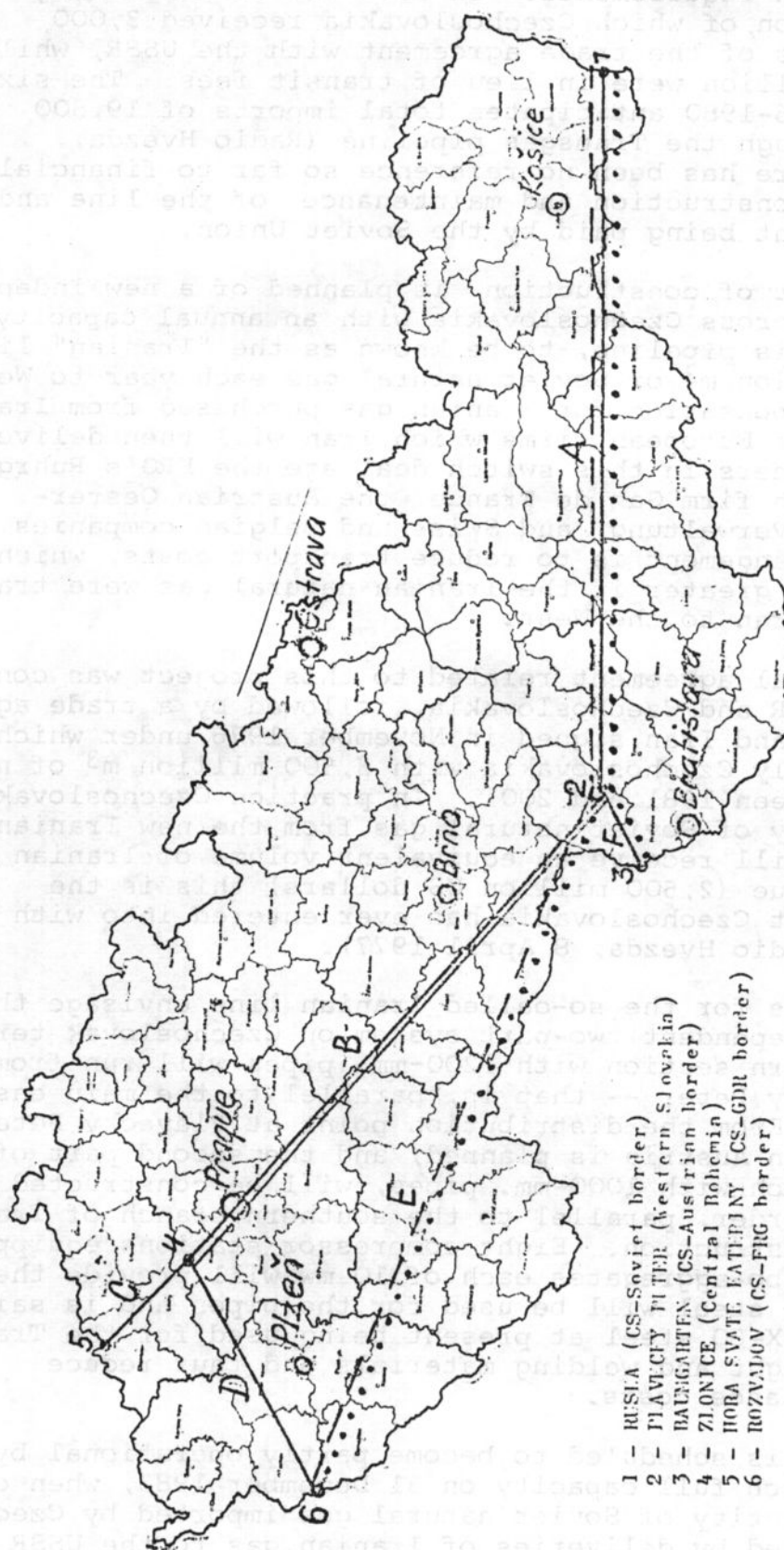
A special bilateral agreement related to this project was concluded between the USSR and Czechoslovakia, followed by a trade agreement between the CSSR and Iran signed in November 1976 under which Iran undertook to supply Czechoslovakia with 3,500 million m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas annually between 1981 and 2001. In practice Czechoslovakia will draw this quantity of Soviet natural gas from the new Iranian line, while the USSR will receive an equivalent volume of Iranian gas. In both volume and value (2,500 million US dollars) this is the biggest trade agreement Czechoslovakia has ever entered into with a nonsocialist state (Radio Hvezda, 8 April 1977).

Czechoslovak plans for the so-called Iranian line envisage the construction of an independent two-part system on Czechoslovak territory. A 460-km. eastern section with 1200-mm. pipes will run from the USSR border to Plavecky Peter -- that is, parallel to the main eastern section of Transgas. From the distribution point at Plavecky Peter a branch to Baumgarten in Austria is planned, and the second part of the system, a 395-km. stretch with 1000-mm. pipes, will be constructed to Rozvadov on the FRG border, parallel to the southern branch of Transgas, which is now under construction. Eight compressor stations equipped with a total of 24 turbo-aggregates each of 10 mw. will provide the necessary power. X-70 steel will be used for the pipes and is said to be superior to the X-60 steel at present being used for the Transgas line; it will save weight and welding materials and thus reduce production and maintenance costs.

The Iranian line is scheduled to become partly operational by the end of 1980 and to reach full capacity on 31 December 1983, when one third of the total quantity of Soviet natural gas imported by Czechoslovakia will be covered by deliveries of Iranian gas to the USSR (Technicky Tydenik No. 40, 5 October 1976; Czechoslovak Television, 12 November 1976; and Technicky Tydenik No. 19, 10 May 1977).



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- 1 - RUSSIA (CS-Soviet border)
- 2 - PLAVEČKY FIFTER (Western Slovakia)
- 3 - BALUGARTEN (CS-Austrian border)
- 4 - ZLONICE (Central Bohemia)
- 5 - HORA SVATE KATIPINY (CS-GDR border)
- 6 - ROZVALOV (CS-FRG border)

- A - Eastern section
- B - Middle section
- C - East German line
- D - West German line
- E - Southern branch
- F - Austrian line



- 1-2-3-4-5-6 Transgas Pipeline (construction ended in 1975)
- 2-4 Middle section doubled (construction ended in September 1976)
- 1-2 Eastern section doubled (under construction, should be opened at the end of 1977)
- 2-6 Southern branch (under construction, should be opened in 1978)
- 1-4-5-6 Iranian Pipeline construction should start in 1978

## 2. Air Pollution in North Bohemian Coal Basin

The state's responsibility for ensuring a healthy environment is enshrined in the Czechoslovak Constitution, and about 50 important laws and other regulations deal with the question of its protection. At the 15th CPCS Congress in April 1976 party leader Gustav Husak declared that it was necessary "to make more determined efforts to reduce the harmful influences on the environment that ensue from the expansion of industry and transportation, and the industrialization of agriculture." He asked the state and economic agencies and national committees to devote greater attention to improving the environment, for "it is our solemn duty to preserve the basic values of the environment, the wealth of nature, and the beauty of our country for future generations."

In a similar vein the guidelines for the socioeconomic development of the CSSR between 1976 and 1980, which were adopted at the congress, laid down that: "In the industrial agglomerations and locations with a high concentration of industry greater attention must be devoted to the environment," and that to this end the purity of the atmosphere must be improved, and the natural, technical, and economic sciences must be ecologically oriented (Rude Pravo, 13 and 14 April 1976).

In addition to damage caused through pollution of surface and ground water (see Czechoslovak SR/22, REFER, 16 June 1977, Item 1), the environment in Czechoslovakia suffers from severe air pollution. Ordinance No. 178 issued by the Ministry of Finance in 1960 was intended to deal with this situation, but it failed to produce any noticeable improvement and Law No. 35/1967 -- the first ever on the protection of the atmosphere -- was therefore enacted. This law provided for the imposition of fines on factories and organizations for pollution over and above certain permitted limits, and responsibility for monitoring the purity of the air was assigned to the national committees. The law also laid down that 60 per cent of the fines collected would accrue to the national committees affected, while the other 40 per cent would go to the so-called Fund for the Protection of the Atmosphere. It is not known to what extent these fines have been imposed or what relation their sum bears to the damage caused by pollution. This damage is certainly substantial: direct damage is estimated at 4,400 million Kcs per year and indirect damage -- meaning damage solely attributable to corrosion -- at an additional 2,000-2,500 million Kcs (Zivotne Prostredie, No. 2/1976); and these figures take no account of the harm done to the health of the population.

The same journal said that the fund is also being used for investments that cannot be regarded as exclusively geared to the improvement of the environment. For instance, in its budget for 1976-1980 the Czech Ministry of Agriculture and Nutrition allocated investments amounting to 595,400,000 Kcs for installations intended to protect the atmosphere; but a breakdown of this figure reveals that only 30,300,000 Kcs are in fact earmarked for specifically environmental purposes while the remaining 565,100,000 Kcs are being devoted to the modernization of existing boiler houses and the construction of new ones.

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An examination of cinder fallout demonstrates just how serious the situation is. In Czechoslovakia with only 15,000,000 inhabitants it amounts to 10,800,000 tons, while in the FRG the corresponding figure is 12,400,000, in Poland 7,900,000, in Great Britain 9,800,000, and in France 4,160,000 (Veda a Zivot No. 8, August 1977). The North Bohemian region is among the worst affected parts of Czechoslovakia. Its districts lying below the Krusne Hory range have the most polluted air in the CSSR and are even said to be among the most "exposed" in the world. Two specific factors have brought about this critical situation: the expansion of coal strip mining and the development of the energy and chemical industries. The energy industry accounts for most of the air pollution in the region: electric power stations and heating plants, old and new, emit about 200,000 tons of cinders and approximately 450,000 tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere annually (Zivotne Prostredie, No. 3/1977), while the total emission of gaseous exhalations in the North Bohemian area amounts to more than 850,000 tons a year (Zemedelske Noviny, 24 June 1975).

The future is dark -- in the literal sense -- because the intensity of the sun's rays in that region is 40 per cent less than elsewhere. Consequently, the state of health of the population is poor and people react to this by leaving the area. Once new capacities with a total output of 3,200 mw. become operational, the situation will deteriorate further, and it is expected that air pollution will reach its peak in 1985. This undesirable state of affairs is due to the fact that Czechoslovakia is unable to replace brown coal -- its main source of energy -- by other forms of energy, and it is planned to increase mining in this basin from the present 61,500,000 tons a year to between 70,000,000 and 75,000,000 tons in 1980 (Praca, 21 July 1976).

Sulfur dioxide emitted by the combustion of coal accounts for much of this pollution. At the Armada colliery the sulfur content is as high as 15 per cent, and out of every 50,000,000 tons of coal mined by this colliery, 5,000,000 tons consist of sulfur, which produces 10,000,000 tons of sulfur dioxide when burnt in electric power stations. In the middle of 1976 the press several times mentioned a new method of so-called "biological lye-processing" which had succeeded in substantially reducing the sulfur content of coal. But nothing more has been heard of this, and air pollution is spreading beyond the republic, as Zemedelske Noviny (23 May 1977) put it, because combustion products from the large thermoelectric power stations can rise through several strata of the atmosphere and cause harm hundreds and even thousands of kilometers distant. The opinion formerly held -- the paper wrote -- that some kind of intermediate stratum exists above which these pollutants cannot rise, has proved wrong.

The air pollution of the region has a long history. In 1961 the figure was 300,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, which by 1965 had risen to between 400,000 and 500,000 tons (Zemedelske Noviny, 3 September 1965) -- although by that time government decision No. 524/1964 was already in force, and it provided that certain production lines in chemical factories should be closed down or



transferred elsewhere and that harmful emissions should be reduced in other plants. This did not happen, however (Pruboj, 16 September 1965). As a result of the poisoned atmosphere forests began to wither in the Krusne Hory mountains, and between 80,000 and 116,000 ha. of forests are believed to have been destroyed. As a counter-measure it is planned to plant a climatically resistant type of Canadian spruce tree. Some 40 per cent of the region -- where more than half a million people live -- as well as farm land, is affected. Sulfur compounds, high acidity, and other adverse factors disturb biochemical and microbiological processes in the soil, and precipitation becomes mineralized -- to the extent of about 100-200 mg. per liter -- which has an adverse effect on the quality of surface and ground water.

In response to this catalogue of adulteration the federal Ministry of Technology and Investments initiated the preparation during the last five-year plan (1971-1975) of a comprehensive system for the protection of the environment from pollution in the North Bohemian brown coal basin and its environs. A survey produced a picture of the extent of the air pollution and a package of measures was conceived and proposed to deal with the most urgent problems (Zivotne Prostredie, No. 3/1977). The periodical rather resignedly noted, however, that all this "may serve as a starting point for unifying the concepts, resources, and capacities of all organs and institutions that deal with the protection of the environment" -- a rather meager result after many years of "concentrated care for the environment by party and government."

In addition to the comprehensive system mentioned above two other important documents specifically relating to this region were issued: the decisions of the government of the CSR No. 213/1972 and of the Presidium of the government of the CSR No. 28/1973 on "the comprehensive solution of problems of the environment in the North Bohemian region." At the end of the fifth five-year plan the government of the CSR, acting on a recommendation by the Environmental Council, reviewed the implementation of this set of measures and investment projects in the years 1972-1975 and approved a new comprehensive package (decision of the government of the CSR No. 91/1976) designed to improve the environment in four districts of the coal basin during the sixth five-year plan period.

Available sources do not disclose in detail what was planned and what has been accomplished -- not much in the latter respect, judging from the admission that air pollution in the region will continue to increase until 1985. The building of exceptionally tall chimneys and the construction of large electric power stations in other regions -- Opatovice, Chvaletice, and Trutnov in East Bohemia, and Melnik in Central Bohemia -- will not solve the problem but merely shift it elsewhere.

Nine years ago the regional party journal Pruboj (10 July 1968) lamented the helplessness of the physicians in this region in the face of pollution. All proposals and measures -- the paper wrote -- had failed to produce even the minimum of alleviation. The permitted limits of pollution were being greatly exceeded, as the power industry

was well aware, but economic expediency always prevailed. Such frank discussion could hardly be expected today, but there is little reason to believe that the essence of the problem has changed much since the Prague Spring.

### 3. The Minister of the Interior as Author

The head of the Czechoslovak security agencies, federal Minister of the Interior Jaromir Obzina (born 1929), a docent, doctor of philosophy, and holder of the academic degree of Candidate of Sciences, has just published his third book. It is entitled K Aktualnim Otazkam Bezpecnostni Politiky KSC (Topical Questions of the Security Policy of the CPCS) and was published by the Prague publishing house Horizont in the past few days.

It is primarily intended for "members of the departments and Corps of National Security, and the forces of the Ministry of the Interior," as well as for the general reader (Tvorba No. 36, 7 September 1977). In it Obzina indirectly follows up on his earlier works on the Marxist-Leninist theory of the present-day ideological class struggle. In his first book K Leninskemu Pojeti Politiky (The Leninist Concept of Politics) published by Horizont in 1972, he analyzed "right wing opportunism" and "the bourgeois opinions of Tomas G. Masaryk"; in the second, Ke Kritice Filosofickych a Politickych Aspektu "Humanitni Demokracie" (Criticism of the Philosophical and Political Aspects of "Humanist Democracy"), again from Horizont, in 1974, Obzina condemned the ideology of "Masarykism" in the development of modern Czech political thinking from a dogmatic viewpoint and attacked "the antidemocratic class tendencies of the representatives of humanist democracy, T. G. Masaryk and Edvard Benes" (Ceskoslovensky Casopis Historicky, No. 2/1975).

His latest book leaves behind theorizing on alleged abuses of the concepts of democracy by Masaryk, Benes, and their heirs, and concerns itself with the security policies of the communist party derived from the decisions of the 15th CPCS Congress. In a review Ladislav Tomasek said that Obzina had analyzed the new security policy of the CPCS "in light of the Leninist concept of the periodization of post-revolutionary development" in Czechoslovakia and had clearly and correctly defined the current phase of the development of our society, which had enabled him to provide "a scientifically determined historical frame for the thinking underlying the security policies of the party and state" (Tvorba No. 36, 7 September 1977).

Tomasek said that the minister had "creatively analyzed the role of the formation and functioning of socialist law." He had examined and elucidated the preventive and prophylactic role of the Czechoslovak security agencies, and "the way the author defines and emphasizes the ethics of the activity of the security organs is in my view the foundation of his work."

All three of Obzina's books are lacking in the erudition and objectivity of the true scientist. In an attempt to make up for these obvious shortcomings he falls back on the ideological phraseology of the handbooks used in party schooling. This was particularly evident in Ke Kritice . . . , in which Masaryk's humanist democracy is described



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as the ideology of the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie, which had "led to the destruction of basic values" in the development of the new society.

Obzina obtained his academic degrees through correspondence courses in which party assessment is more important than academic achievement. The party sent him to Moscow, where he graduated from the CPSU CC Party College (for his political career and biography see Czechoslovak SR/13, RFER, 4 April 1973, Item 3). Obzina is the holder of several party and state decorations, orders, and medals (Rude Pravo, 31 March 1973).

Despite their manifest shortcomings, Obzina's specialist writings have been highly commended in the party press. In a book review in Rude Pravo (24 January 1972) Antonin Dolejsi said of his first book (K Leninskemu Pojetí Politiky) that:

Obzina stoutly defends the Marxist-Leninist concept of politics through the whole structure of his work, through the choice of the political phenomena he analyzes, and through the manner in which he treats them. After the disastrous experience of the years 1968 and 1969 this particular subject is exceptionally vital and topical. The author possesses a thorough knowledge of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, primarily those of Lenin, and uses to advantage his wealth of political experience.

Obzina's second book (Ke Kritice. . .) was reviewed by (among others) the historian Libuse Neckarova in Historicky Casopis (No. 2/1975), the journal of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. She wrote that the author had succeeded in tracing "how the Czech bourgeoisie attempted in its political theory and practice to misuse the concepts of humanism and humanist democracy in order to buttress its power." Obzina had shown that "humanist democracy" was an important political part of the ideology of Masarykism, while the Marxist concept of humanism is an ideology that combines the ideals of humanity with the historical mission of the working class.

The gaps on the shelves caused by the shortage of high-quality creative writing in Czechoslovakia today are to some extent being filled -- after a fashion -- by leading party and state officials turned author. Obzina's name must be added to a list that includes Secretary-General Gustav Husak, Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, and several less prominent figures.

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