

SUMMARY

Slovak-Hungarian boundary-line during 1938 – 1945. In the villages of the southern Slovakia there lived autochthonic inhabitants. Slovaks, Hungarians and people of other national minorities lived side by side and cooperated as well. Since year 1938 their life was marked by several factors inferred from the present situation of that world.

Hitler made a decision to destroy ČSR gradually and the development of the foreign policy made it easier for him. Political changes in Slovakia after 6th October 1938 called into existence the authoritative-totalitarian regime. Foreign policy of Nazi Germany brought Slovakia and its neighbour – Horthy's Hungary, into vassalage.

From the beginning of the second world war The Slovak state absurdly became even an ally of its Hungarian rival.

The pick of politicians of Slovakia were conscious, just during the first existence of ČSR, that Miklós Horthy and his associates had ached for revision. The fight took place mostly on a diplomatic and political fields so that the civil population didn't notice it very much. Later on the autonomous Slovak government encountered the theoretical approaches of Hungarian border-line revision and practice too.

Opened pressure between Slovaks and Hungarians broke out after the Viennese arbitrage. Jozef Tiso had to solve one more problem - Hungarian matter. Not only he had to, but he wanted to. National and racial policy of the totalitarian state needed „a driving factor“, a point of „national enemies“ against whom all political forces of Slovakia should have been united. More problems (mostly expressed by reciprocal actions) rose when the Slovaks lost the southern part, Hungarian administration adopted

some steps on an arbitration ground and population had to strike against continued problems happening on mutual borders.

On one side there had been a folk regime that was backwardly trying to establish the new territory into international sphere. On the other side there was revisionistic Hungary which need was to keep lability of this territory in order to establish the platform of governmental line-up of its northern neighbour.

Except hypocritical Berlin just only the reciprocity principle restrained catastrophic effects of mutual malignity.

During years 1938-1939, the role of apposing officers included contact with Hungarian occupational army, intelligence duties and the preparation of the material for delimitation works. The fiscal guard insured Slovak national borders in the times of autonomy and during the existence of the independent Slovak state. There wasn't appropriate number of dependants for security of national borders so there were troops of Hlinka's guard and soldiers to help them. Customs issues were managed by customs bureaus. Gendarme stations and police offices which circuits trenched upon, also paid their attention to national borders.

These held the office of passport control. In December 5th - 1938 frontier and trade commerce and railway transport were initiated. More than 160 small frontier connections were mainly used by peasants, farmers of the frontier region. In November 1939 first common Treaty between the Slovak republic and Hungarian kingdom was restricted. It was about reorganization of mutual interchange of goods. So the mutual trade could have been developed naturally in the Slovak-Hungarian boundary-line during another period. Hungary imported agricultural, industrial products and raw materials into Slovakia, and Slovakia mostly exported industrial goods, wood, wood coal and lime.

On the arbitral area, at the end of year 1938, Hungarian civil administration took over the powers of Hungarian occupational military members and at the same time on a local level took the lead in deliberations with Slovak partners. The aim of deliberations was the elimination of the frontier problem. Despite the

deliberation there had always been administrative and personal problems related to crossing the borders on both sides - Slovak and Hungarian. The atmosphere of mutual relations of both-sides officials showed generally poor Slovak-Hungarian attitude.

Reporting games of different sorts were held at the border-line. One of aims of Slovak and Hungarian intelligence service was the collection of confidential and secret information from bordering areas of the neighbouring state. Intelligence information involved attempt to discover the mood of population, the move, mobilization and localization of power components, number and age of soldiers and officers, to discover the mood inside the particular blocks or quality and quantity of munition and equipment. An effort to detect Hungarian spies or denouncers in Slovakia didn't bring any success so that's why the Slovak power apparatus tried to limit the possibilities of Slovak-Hungarians to travel to Hungary.

But state borders were illegally crossed by refugees, organized transporters of refugees, people who wanted to shop abroad, smugglers, Polish soldiers, members of Hungarian border patrol, Hungarian gendarme, military deserters, guerillas, soldiers of Hungarian and German army and other population groups. Everybody had their specific reasons. Incoming new groups of inhabitants and forbidden crossing of the border happened almost everyday in definite periods of history. Besides public offices and safeguard groups had to cope with this fact. But they didn't manage these frontier problems mostly because of big pressure and many times their deeds caused chaos or conflict reactions.

Difficult conditions and Magyarizational actions of Hungarian executives on the arbitral area interfered into human rights of people of non-Hungarian nationality. After the colonization of southern areas, thousands of people of Slovak, Jewish, Ruthenian and Czech nationalities left the occupied areas under forced assault of occupational administration. Refugees came to Slovakia either after voluntary evacuation or after a repressive motion or ban.

According to historical documents at least 10 or 13 thousand refugees could immigrate from Hungarian country, from autumn

1938 till beginning of the year 1941 (when the wave of people leaving the country weakened). In November 1938 there was appointed „An asylum for the care of the refugees“ as a solution for their existential questions. The essential part of refugees was formed by ploughmen and colonists. Slovak executives placed them together with families into manors. One of the negative consequence of settling of ploughmen was the violent communication of domestic farmers because of constraints in work and payments for workers.

When the number of renvoys and runaways from Hungary during the first months of an independent Slovakia didn't decrease, on the Slovakian side there began deportation of dozens of Hungarians. Even if this number was small, it had considerable effect on Hungarian governmental circles. Since year 1940 (after Hungarian government stopped deportations of Slovaks) till the first half of year 1944 immigration from Hungary happened rarely. Refugees in Slovakia gradually accustomed and mutual relations normalized. Next phase of emigration that was connected with oncoming front, began early in year 1944 and lasted until liberation of the country. During the autumn 1944 the number of refugees rose, offices lost general overview about them that happened because of general chaos around the Slovak National Uprising and displacement of eastern front to Hungarian area. All this wasn't just about emigrants from Hungary, but also about multinational flows of people (approximately 20 thousand) from eastern countries and east part of Slovakia.

Other reasons of crossing the border we can find in next examined group of population. Organizing of illegal border-crossings of Slovak, Czech and Polish antifascists, threatened people and people who wanted to join Czech-Slovak foreign army units, was done mostly in Bratislava's and Nitra's area. The group Defence of the Nation organized illegal counter-Nazi(antifascist) revolt, that enabled to lot of refugees to go across to Budapest, herefrom to Belgrade (there was the seat of military and political officials organizing foreign antifascist revolt).

The most frequented border lines were during the winter months 1939-1940 because of applicants of joining the Czechoslovak legions. Activity on border lines stopped after the occupation of Yugoslavia. Only hundreds of revolvers crossed the border with Hungary. By escape to Hungary they tried to save hundreds of people chased for their race, what happened before first deportations in 1942. In this case transporters of Jews played their positive role too. Special group with their specific reasons for escape made Hungarian army deserters, who left their homes at resigned area or other parts of Hungary then. Most common reasons of escaping the Hungarian army belonged cruelty with nationalistic touch-tinge and refusing to fight on the side of Hungarian army being in bad material and supply conditions. Till September 1944 their number was not supposed to reach 500. Central Office for state security created in December 1939, had a competence to lead security and army deserters. Providers for its regulations were local authorities of state and security apparatus. These helped deserters (after the proof of loyalty to the state) to settle down, and were after them. Also army News-office of Slovak state was interested in them.

On the other side, illegal young fellows escaped to Hungary to avoid compulsory military service. Further later, part of them left Hungary after the experience with the country and after receiving amnesty in year 1940, they came back to families in Slovakia.

After German assault on Poland, Polish groups backtracked to Hungary, or even to Ruthenia. There waited disarmament and interment for them in Hungary. A small group of Polish soldiers tried to escape from Hungarian interment and tried to go back to Poland through the Slovak republic. In Slovakia at the end of year 1939 more than 1200 of Polish prisoners, (and refugees of Hungarian internment) caught by Slovak security executives, were found in the country. The situation of by-passing the refugees from refugee camp in Oremove Lazy, Lešť was very complicated. In February 1940 the German side took over 961 refugees, in May 1941 – 15 more refugees and July 1942 still 9 more refugees. They

were told to work in Germany for civil works. Among subversive actions of Hungarian revisionist policy it is necessary to include military offenses of soldiers of Hungarian frontier-guards who illegally crossed the borders many times. Their nuisances and conflicts with Slovak frontier-guards, that led to pressure and destabilization of conditions at Slovak-Hungarian border-line, not once sounded tragicomically. Members of Hungarian terroristic groups undertook diverse activities too on border-line in pressed era of Munich conference and Viennese arbitrage. Approaching end of the war brought to Slovakia bigger and bigger battle formations. Since October 1944 increased appeals on German soldiers of squad of 8th German Army in HUngary. They were mostly hunting venison to have more varieties of food.

And in autumn 1944 when the east front moved through Hungary to west, security guards noted a case when a group of Hungarian soldiers illegally crossed the borders to export some wood for heating. From December 1944 to February 1945 German squads, "Vlasov army" and small groups of Hungarian soldiers and Hungarian gendarme concentrated or just passed the border checkpoints. Later, total disengagement of crossing the border arised. Population complained lots of times on impertinent behaviour of soldiers.

Opinions of population of Slovak-Hungarian border-line were affected by the fact that they were neighbouring with the country honoured as their home land. Hungarian propaganda helped to consolidate that Hungary is close not as a zone but also spiritually. The same thing happened on the other side too and it caused interesting propaganda's fights. Propaganda was able to raise the passion as well as the apathy. The most common forms of propaganda were handing-out leaflets, propagating of tendencious maps and photographic material, ostentatious decoration of Hungarian train transporters but mostly the verbal propaganda. Its main topics were land profits, comparing the standards of living, analysis of political problems, and governmental relations with Berlin. They were many times seen as unreal or absurd. Until year 1944

some rumours were resounded (that Hungary will occupy more parts of Slovakia) and this happened mostly inter motive power parts of propaganda - The Hungarians in Slovakia. Folk antipro-paganda had enough intensity not to be behind in its effort what is clearly seen in articles in the press of that period. History of this issue finishes with liberation of the country and with anulation of Munich and Viennese decreeses. After May 1945 begun another difficult period of Slovak-Hungarian relations that were being solved in the context of events of pre-war and war years.