

## SUMMARY

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The presented study „The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in STB Agency Elaboration“ came into being at the Bureau of Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism (ÚDV). An impetus for its compilation was the request by the Association of Evangelical Preachers for working out the issue of influence, control and persecution of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) by the State Security (StB) collaborators' network on the basis of available documents.

The study deals with the fight of the communist secret police against the largest Protestant Church in the territory of what is the Czech Republic today in the period from the 1950's to 1980's. The agency elaboration of the ECCB by the State Security had been focused especially on the activities of the New Orientation (which was an offshoot active within the ECCB), on the priests and laymen, who represented it or were linked with it since the beginning of the 60's to the fall of the regime in 1989.

The StB in the interest of „paralysing and guiding“ introduced their covert collaborators (agents) and informers into the management of the Church and into the individual seniorates who then formed in the church a so – called influence agency.

The influence of the New Orientation, which played the role of an opposition to the Church as a whole and at senior level had been tangible in the Church especially in Prague and the Central Bohemian Region and also in the West Bohemian, North Bohemian and East Bohemian Regions. On the other hand the influence was next to none in the territory of the South Bohemian, North Moravian and South Moravian Regions.

The State Security was unable to get rid of the influence even after the „normalization“ 20th Synod of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in 1977. It spread especially among the lay members of the ECCB and the students of the Comenius Evangelical Theological Faculty (CETF). Thus the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren posed the greatest opposition to the communist regime of all the non-catholic churches. It is not, therefore, surprising that the StB and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia considered it to be the „most reactionary church“ of all.

At the close of his study the author states that the StB has been unable to efficiently put a stop to the process of growing opposition. It remained a matter of time when the regime-opposing part of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren would take a lead and thanks to the democratic church establishment would gain positions in the management of the individual seniorates and the entire church.

This, however, happened under quite a different political situation, which took place in Czechoslovakia after the events of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1989.



The study is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter „The Situation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren after 1948 and during the Normalisation Period“ the author concentrates on some aspects of the intra-church development and the ECCB relationship towards the communist regime – with a stress on the New Orientation activities.

In the second chapter entitled „The StB, Instruments and Means of Combating the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren“ he describes the development of State Security structures aimed at agency elaboration of churches, follows the methods of StB work when recruiting and managing a network of secret collaborators from among the priests and laymen

of the ECCB. At the same time the author tries to characterise the impact and tasks of the so-called influence agency in the church environment and other forms of influence, control and persecution of the ECCB on the part of the StB.

In the third chapter „The Agency Elaboration of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren“ Peter Dinus concentrates on the issue of the pressure of the StB itself on the church. This chapter is divided into four periods: the period between 1949–1960, the period from 1961–1970, 1971–1979 and 1980–1989. He deals with the concrete activities of the StB against the opposition activities of the New Orientation in the ECCB during individual events and also with the forms of influence, control and persecution used by the State Security.

(Due to the absence or impossibility of finding archival materials pertaining to the 1949–1960 and especially to the 1961–1970 periods they remain from the point of view of the given topic practically untouched.)

The fourth chapter „The Situation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in the Regions” represents the working out of StB plans and the evaluation of activities of the counter-intelligence departments of the StB administrations in the individual regions. The exception is only the North Bohemian region where the issue of agency elaboration of the ECCB at the regional level has been worked out on the basis of the particular subject volume. (The other volumes concerning the topic were shredded during November and December 1989.)

In the last chapter the author summarises the contents of the selected volumes and events concerning the persons followed and hostile ones (elaborated upon) and volumes of StB collaborators.

StB collaborators: (CC – covert collaborator, I – informer, CCC – candidate of covert collaboration) are mentioned in the publication under their cover names.

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There are three enclosures to the study:

- Enclosure 1 introduces a list of StB collaborators with their cover and partially also genuine names.
- Enclosure 2 contains a review of volumes and files of followed and hostile persons (examined) persons by the StB.
- Enclosure 3 contains service characteristics of those StB members who figure in the study.

The study is also annotated and provides a list of literature and sources, a name index and a list of abbreviations.

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The author’s aim was to provide a complex picture of the agency elaboration of the ECCB in such a way as reflected in StB materials. When preparing the study the author drew on the work of the graduates of the StB Faculty of the National Security College and workers in the field of church policy of the CP of Czechoslovakia and above all on the source materials deposited in the Ministry of Interior Archives in Prague and in Brno-Kanice.

Since it was impossible to find archival materials concerning the elaboration of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren for the period of the 1950’s and 1960’s, the core of the study is formed – even though it is far from complex – by the years 1970’s and 80’s.

The author believes that despite this the work shall become a fruitful contribution to learning about the repressive activities of the secret political police against the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and against churches in general in the then Czechoslovakia.