

Summary

Milan Bárta:

Censorship of Czechoslovak Film and Television between 1953–1968

February 1948, a turning point in the historic development of the Czechoslovak Republic also became a turning point in the approach of the state towards the control and influence over the mass media. In 1953 the Political Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia approved the foundation of the Main Administration of Press Supervision, its statute has been approved and the systematisation of the new organisation carried out: soon it was subordinated directly to the Ministry of the Interior and had at its disposal dozens of employees. Apart from state secrets its task was to protect also the „general interest“ which formed the basis of the ensuing evident abuse of the institution. The study outlines the development of censorship in Czechoslovakia until the year 1968 in relation to the then political climate using a number of concrete cases of interference as an example. Special attention is paid to film and TV broadcasting.

Jiří Plachý: The Priest and Gardener Operation

In 1980 P. Josef Dolista was appointed curate of the Provost's authority of the Roman Catholic Church in Mělník. When he was in office the number of people attending his Mass celebrations, the number of religious weddings, burials, etc. went up. Furthermore, Dolista openly opposed the pro-regime Association of Catholic Clergy Pacem in Terris and he started to be popular also with young people. This caught the attention of the local State Security authorities and became the impetus for the operation Priest (elimination of the priest's activities) and Gardener (operation directed against students who had been involved with a so called preventive educational measure and with the assistance of a confidant called IVANA). The operation resulted in the expulsion of two students from school and with bad marks for conduct for seven other students on the one hand and prosecution of the priest on the other. It was terminated only because of adverse publicity in foreign radio broadcasts.

Daniel Povolný: Operative Technology and the StB

The study deals with basic kinds of operative technology (short-term and long-term bugging, recording technology, phone and fax tapping, covert photograph taking and filming, secret technical search and checking of correspondence), which the StB used in the territory of Czechoslovakia against its citizens between the years 1948 to 1989. The individual chapters deal with the evaluation of the development and ways of the use of chosen types of operative technology. There is a description of the aims pursued by the StB by using operative technology as well as the possibility of abusing such information. Finally there is a review of basic rules and regulations from the years 1951 to 1982 which the StB was supposed to follow when using operative technology. In the framework of some chapters there is also the outline of the history of the use of operative technology between the years 1945 – 1948, which among others clearly testifies to what amount of attention the CP of Cz paid to penetrating the structures of the Interior Ministry and getting them under control.

Šárka Rokosová:

Administrative Measures – One of the Forms of Persecution of Farmers by the Communist Regime

One of the groups, which at the time of the communist regime succumbed to targeted liquidation were private farmers. The study deals with the outline of methods, which under the cover of legality inconspicuously but efficiently resulted in the total elimination of this social group. These administrative measures were very sophisticated as they consisted of the creation of such laws and regulations due to which private farmers had much tougher conditions for carrying on their enterprise

(e.g. land reform, consolidation of land, Act on the purchase of agricultural machinery and facilities, etc.). With the help of such measures the regime succeeded because private farmers were unable to act pursuant to another law and an effective restrictive method – the Act on Obligatory Supplies. By not being able to provide the necessary supplies they were subjected to criminal and administrative prosecution and once accused of sabotage they were criminalized and their private property was taken away from them. Apart from economic liquidation the regime also resorted to social liquidation (in the so-called operation „K“ it moved the families of farmers to far off and destitute regions by which it de-rooted entire families from their environment) and by preventing the children of private farmers from taking up studies also to cultural liquidation. The CP of CZ launched the struggle against private farmers at its IX. Congress in 1948 and announced its success at the XII. Party Congress in 1962.

Jiří Šťastný: Active Reserves

Despite the fact that all the important functions in state administration during the entire period of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia were taken up by people who had been screened and the State Security was building an agency network of co-operators, the security authorities tried to fill some of the posts by their own staff. These StB members were called „an active reserve“ and they were active in an organisation or enterprise where they were sent to, usually covertly, while their activity had been legalised by taking up functions of the regular staff. The importance of the functions depended, e.g., on the locality abroad, the possibility of direct contact with a certain group of people or in the specific role the organisation played in the framework of the state system. In this way the StB had the opportunity to covertly influence the activities in spheres where it had a vested interest. At the end of the 80's the security system had its staff in all the key spheres of the economic and social life. The study contains chapters dealing with the financial aspect of the issue and a list of staff working as active reserve with the specification of their function and character of activities they did for the StB.

Oldřich Tomek: Operation JAZZ

During the 70's and 80's one of the most active and freethinking branches of the Musicians' Union had been the JAZZ Section (JS). Except for the musical scene it pursued a number of other activities: experimental trials in creative art, literary and critical production not limited solely to its own journal, as well as organisation of cultural events, etc. This fact caught the interest of the State Security, the result of which were steps aimed (in the framework of Operation Jazz) at the criminalisation of representatives of the Jazz Section. From the almost a decade of the process of elimination of the JS one can judge the efficiency of the work of the StB and compare the input with the end result. The study to illustrate the case contains several documents both from the members of the Jazz Section as well as from those of the StB.