

DECLASSIFIED

NND 760050

THE CZECH NATIONAL COMMITTEE, LONDON
25, ROSEDEW ROAD
W. 6

*With the
Gen. Secretary's Compliments.*

On 26th February, 1948, a Communist Coup d'etat was staged in Prague and a new Protectorate set up. The Czech Nation had been betrayed for the second time. The first time was in the autumn of 1938, when the President of the Czechoslovak Republic accepted, against the unanimous will of the Czech people, the Munich Agreement which a few months later unavoidably led to the occupation of the Czech Lands by the Germans and to the establishment of the " Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia." The second betrayal happened in February, 1948, when, in spite of the evident anti-communist attitude of the majority of the Czech people, Dr. Edward Benes surrendered once more.

On both occasions Dr. Benes' capitulation delivered the Country to an alien totalitarian regime. For years a German national socialist terror ruled in the Czech Lands which has now been supplanted by a terroristic regime of the Communists.

In 1938 President Benes at least had the courage to stand up against Henleins's Fifth Column and when he finally capitulated it was to Adolf Hitler himself. Now he has surrendered unconditionally to Klement GOTTWALD, chairman of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which in turn is subservient to Moscow.

Since 1945 Dr. Benes and Mr. Masaryk, his Foreign Minister, have concealed from the public opinion at home and abroad the fact that ever since the end of hostilities the policy of post-war Czechoslovakia has been directed by Moscow through the medium of the Communist Party, at the head of which already at that time was Klement GOTTWALD.

A new political system called " Peoples Democracy " was introduced in the heart of Europe with the aim of disguising the real intentions of Moscow. This system was even used by the Soviet propagandists as an evidence of a non existent Iron Curtain. The inexperienced Czech electorate as well as the credulous public opinion abroad had been lulled into

a sense of false security by the statements and assurances of both these appeasers of Soviet expansion. The sustained propaganda exalting the names Benes and Masaryk all over the world seemed to be a sufficient guarantee for the truthfulness and reliability of their misleading assertions.

Moscow has now decided that time was ripe to assume full power in Czechoslovakia. So Prime Minister Klement GOTTWALD took appropriate steps towards that end, exploited the Cabinet crisis thus deliberately provoked and presented Dr. Benes with an ultimatum. To the astonishment of a deceived nation and the misled public opinion of the world Dr. Benes capitulated and a dictatorship of the Communist Party, acting on foreign orders, has been established.

Dr. E. Benes cannot escape direct responsibility for what has happened. As far back as 1943 he personally concluded a Treaty with the Soviet Union, supplemented later on by an agreement with the Czech and Slovak Communists in Moscow, the result of which Agreements was the Kosice Government Programme also called "Gottwald's Magna Charta." Thus the door was thrown open for a decisive communist influence not only into post-war Czechoslovakia but into Western Europe as well.

Dr. Benes has not even the excuse that he could not foresee these developments for he had been warned in time and before he set out on his journey to Moscow in 1943, as stated by the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P., at that time H.M. Foreign Secretary, in answer to a question in the House of Commons. The Moscow Treaty was immediately repudiated by his own countrymen in London who—under the leadership of General Lev Prchala—protested publicly and declared the same harmful to the Czech Nation and null and void.

Later on, before the end of the war, the Czech National Committee was constituted in London to counter the pro-communist policy of Dr. Benes. The Committee protested in a Memorandum, submitted to the British Government, against methods used in May, 1945, by the Communists in Prague for securing predominant influence in the state affairs and in every field of public life.

DECLASSIFIED

NND 760050

By SMD NARS, DATE 1/11/93

The Czech people were informed about this Memorandum in a pamphlet called "A Message to our Country," dispatched secretly to the Czech Lands. For this action the members of the Czech National Committee in London, who had foreseen correctly what was coming, were labelled in Prague as traitors. To-day this same designation is being given to all—even to Dr. Benes' closest collaborators—who have dared to stand up against the Communist dictatorship.

We, the Czech National Committee in London, were not frightened by the threats of the Prague usurpers then and they cannot frighten us to-day.

We have fought and we will fight on against the Communist dictators, against the terrorism of the Police State and against the Soviet Protectorate in our Country.

We are defending the millennial traditions of our Czech national culture built upon Christian foundations and forming a part of Western Civilisation.

We defend the inherent right of the Czech Nation to its own Statehood and Independence. Thus only its freedom and democratic development can be secured.

LONDON.

February 27th, 1948.

The Czech National Committee, London.

25, Rosedew Road, W. 6.

General Lev Prchala, *President.*

Dr. Karel Locher, *Secretary Gen.*

Also for and on behalf of :

The Czech National Groups

in Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany and Austria—as well as on behalf of :

**The Czech National Freedom Movement
in Czech Lands**

(Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia).