

Declassified Case: NW# 78008 Date:  
10-26-2023

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83492459

NEW FOLDER BEGINS

DECLASSIFIED NW 78008

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file 196917

- MASARYK, Jan -Former Czech Foreign Minister. Said to have committed suicide.  
RD-236204, SRI, Reg III: dtd 4 May 1948, subj: Arnost CECHOVSKY & Juraj STASCHEK
- MASARYK, fnu -RD-232270, Letter Hq 7707, EC Intelligence Center, subj: The Czech Coup, dtd 7 Apr 1948 - (file 196917)
- MASARYK -An attempt to assassinate SUBJECT was prepared by SOLNAR, a Communist member of the Czech Parliament and CEPICA, Alexei. The attempt to assassinate SUBJECT was unsuccessful.  
Ref D-232627, SEDEVY, Zdanek, Memo: Mar 26, 1948  
D-196917
- MASARYK, Jan -Czech Dept of Interior  
RD-236245, MOIC Region V, Dept III of Czech Dept of Interior, 11 May 1948
- MASARYK, Th.G. -Subject was the former president of the ESR. Subject published a proclamation in 1915 which said that we should not continue fighting but should join a legion in Russia  
D-196917  
RD-137536, Ref D-169232-162492, memo 17 June 1947
- MASARYK Czechoslovakina Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Assisted Mrs. Marie SCHAUFUSS in 1932 to emigrate to US via PRAGUE  
D-228160 dtd 2 Mar 48  
D-196917  
RD-200790: Church World Service, Memo dtd 2 Mar 1948
- MASARYK, Jan RD-184682, MOIC, Reg V, subj: Net No 1 (Czech) dtd 14 Apr 1948  
D-196917
- MASARYK Res: Czechoslovakia  
Occu: Czech Minister  
On 11 Sep 1947 an unsuccessful attempt was made on subject' life by sending him explosives in a box  
D-196917  
RD-228085, Events Related to Czec Communist Coup memo dtd 30 Mar 48
- MASARYK, Jan -Res: PRAGUE, CSR  
Occu: Member of the New Communist Govt in Czech  
Subject is anti-communist  
RD-228085, Events related to Czech Communist Coup memo dtd 30 Mar 48
- MASARYK Jan -RD-231404-Attempted Assassination of 3 Czech Cabinet Minstrs -  
@ HONSO Memo dtd 25 Mar 48
- MASARYK, Jan -Local Czech Group aided by elents of PRCHALA Movement  
@ HONSO RD-13365, PRCHALA Movement memo dtd 30 Sep 1947  
D-196917

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S-3 Work Sheet  
(Do Not Detach)

12 MAY 1948

Initiator of Action WB

SUBJECT : Circumstances of MASARYK'S Death  
DOSSIER NO : \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_  
(See Reverse Side)

THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN ON THE ATTACHED MATERIAL:

(Designate numerical order) ACTION ACCOMPLISHED INITIALS

CPI GROUP : 11 : Attach Card  
OR  
: : Indicate Dossier No's

CARRIER IDENTITY

IMPERSONAL FILES : 2 : Check Impersonal Files  
: : Open an Impersonal File as follows  
: : card Impersonal Subject(s)

DOSSIER GROUP : 3 : Attach Dossier  
: : Open Dossier  
\* : 5 : File in Dossier

CARDING : : Prepare GPT Card (if) D  
: : Underlined names (s)

: : S-3 Executive  
: 4 : Case Direction Section  
: : Central Registry  
: : Distribution Center

196917

Cornish

RETURN TO FILE WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION

REMARKS:

Standard Abbreviations: " R" -- Reference Dossier  
" R" -- Was looked up and no record  
" R" -- Case dossier attached or work accomplished.

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NAME OR IMPERSONAL SUBJECT

DATE OF BIRTH

CPE ACTION OR DOSSIER NO.

INITIALS

HOFFA, DANIEL	1914	10000	NR
MAF, ...	...	10000	NR
HLAUB, ...	...	...	NR
HLAUB, ...	...	...	NR
JEPLE, ...	...	...	NR
JIRA, ...	...	...	NR
HAVAN, ...	...	...	NR
KOMON, Rudolf	...	...	NR
JISE, ...	...	...	NR
SL EC HTA, ...	...	...	NR

IMPERSONAL SUBJECTS

CSR CABINET

CSR COUP

D-231404

D-228085

*[Handwritten initials]*

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INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

Indicate numerical order and initials

FROM TO INITIAL

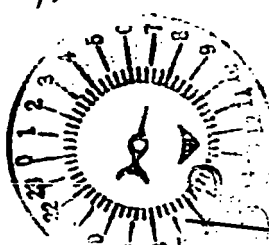
- \_\_\_\_\_ Commanding Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy C.O. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dir P & A \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adjutant \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asst Adjutant \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adm Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel Off \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Military Pers \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Civilian Pers \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indig Pers \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Message Center \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dir O.P.O.T. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Operations Off \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Internal Sec \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ External Sec \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Case Off *Colman* \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plans & Trng Off \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Central Registry \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dir S. & S. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supply Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Motor Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment C.O. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Sgt \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sgt Major \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ CO Region \_\_\_\_\_

- For Necessary Action
- For Information
- For Approval
- For compliance
- For Return to
- For File
- For Comments

Remarks:

*File 196917*

1370<sup>TH</sup> CIC GROUP  
IN



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BID NO. 7205  
 MIG NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 REPORT NO. R-145-48 (SI-72-H)  
 SUBJECT: Death of Jan LASARYK  
 FROM: 7707 ECIC  
 EVALUATION: C-3  
 INCL: None  
 PREPARED BY: JE  
 DATE OF INFORMATION: June 1948  
 DATE OF REPORT: 29 Jul 48  
 SOURCE: Antonin KLOUDA, Czech refugee

~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia  
 I. O. NO. 5368

SUMMARY OR SID REPORT:

Information concerning the death of Jan LASARYK.

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 (2)

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REPORT NO. R-143-48(SI-72-H)  
PAGE NO. 2

REPORT

Death of Jan MASARYK

On the morning of 11 March 1948 it was officially announced from PRAGUE that Jan MASARYK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, had committed suicide by jumping from a window of the Czernin Palace.

In May 1948 source learned from KLEINEROVA, (fnu), Social-Democratic member of Parliament, that in an interview with President BENES on 7 March 1948, Premier Klement GOTTHALD had requested that MASARYK be replaced by Zdenek FIERLINGER, former chairman of the Social-Democratic Party and Communist collaborator. (This information was confirmed in June 1948 by Juraj PAVLOV, Secretary of the Slovak Liberty Party.)

Source also learned from PAVLOV that MASARYK saw President BENES on 10 March 1948. Ferdinand PEROUTKA, a Czech editor, confirmed this information.

At the end of February (before the coup), source discussed with MASARYK some problems regarding the Czech press in the USA. MASARYK was then in good humor but mentioned that his telephones were being tapped, his mail watched and tampered with, and his movements observed by special agents of the Ministry of Interior. MASARYK said "If I could, I would get away from it all".

As an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, source knew that MASARYK's secretaries and assistants were being replaced by men appointed by Dr. Vlado CIGMENTIS, deputy to MASARYK.

At 0745 hours 11 March 1948, after MASARYK's death had been announced, source talked to KOMAREK, a houseman at Czernin Palace. When he arrived at the palace at 0500 hours, KOMAREK found MASARYK's body in the courtyard. The body, clad in pajamas, was cold when discovered. KOMAREK observed that the dead man was lying on his back, with legs and arms in a normal position. No bruises or wounds were evident. The windows of the palace were closed.

At about 0300 hours source talked to Mrs. KORINTOVA, a chambermaid at Czernin Palace, who had arrived at the palace at 0515 hours. She described the body and its position exactly as KOMAREK had described it.

On 12 March 1948, source talked with MASARYK's valet, PRIHODA, who had attended MASARYK between 1800 and 2400 hours the previous day. At 1900 hours when PRIHODA served supper, MASARYK was alone and in good humor. At 2030 hours MASARYK was visited by three men, strangers to PRIHODA. At 2130 hours MASARYK ordered four cups of black coffee. At about 2200 hours PRIHODA, who was dozing, was awakened by MASARYK's voice, loud and excited, shouting, "I will not do this for you. I will sign everything, but not this. I will do everything, but this can happen only over my dead body". PRIHODA heard similar shouting about six times between 2200 and 2300 hours. Between 2300 and 2345 hours there was silence. At 2345 hours, PRIHODA was again awakened by MASARYK's ringing and was requested to bring a cup of black coffee. When MASARYK took the coffee, he said, "That's all. You go to bed. Good night and God bless you". MASARYK's features seemed strained and he was pale and trembling.

On 12 March 1948, when MASARYK lay in state in Czernin Palace, source went three times to look at the body, and observed it from a distance of about four yards. The head, which was supported by a pillow in such a way that the back of the neck could be seen, showed no bruises or wounds. There was only a small dark-red spot above the left eye, as if a vein had been ruptured there. The expression on the face was normal, with the mouth relaxed, as if smiling.

On or about 15 March 1948, Antonin KRATOCHVIL, a university student and member of a resistance group which published the underground paper "Prijdme", told source that at 0300 hours 11 March a medical student was called to attend MASARYK and ascertained that he was dead. KRATOCHVIL received this information from another member of the resistance group who was employed by the URO (Central Trade Union Council) and also from Valtr FELDSTEIN, former secretary to Antonin ZAPOTOCKY while the latter was

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REPORT NO. R-143-48(SI-72-II)  
PAGE NO. 3

chief of the URO. It is not known who called the medical attendant or if he had been standing by for the case.

At the end of April 1948, a Mr. Lesley HILL, an Englishman who teaches English in Prague, told source the British Intelligence Service had been informed that MASARYK had received an injection of a cyanide compound and had died before he was carried, (or thrown), to the pavement where he was discovered. This information was given to the British by police official Councillor DIVIS, who was in contact with Dr. HAJEK, the doctor who performed the autopsy on MASARYK's body.

News reels of MASARYK's funeral showed that the body was buried in an ordinary grave, not in the family tomb.

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*R. M. Thoroughman*  
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Commanding Officer  
7707 ECIC

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

ROBERT A. SCHOW  
Colonel, GSC  
Deputy Director, Intelligence Division  
Hqs, European Command

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DATE: 11/5/48

FROM: TO : :INIT

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OR : :  
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: : Approval & Signature  
: : Your Comments  
1-2 : Information  
: : Coordinate w/  
③ : File In  
: : Ret to C/Clerk Opns Br  
: : For Dispatch

REMARKS:

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83838  
*gll*

HEADQUARTERS  
7707 EUROPEAN COMMAND INTELLIGENCE CENTER  
APO 757 US ARMY

30 April 1948

SUBJECT: Circumstances of MASARYK's Death

TO : DD/ID, EUCOM  
*Not Hand*

1. Reference is made to special briefs from ODDI on the Czech situation.
2. The information contained in this letter was obtained from Dr. Miloslav KOHAK, former political editor of the paper Svobodna Slova, who escaped from Czechoslovakia on 28 March 1948.

1. The Death of Jan MASARYK

a. Contents of Official Documents

The following information was furnished to source by the lawyer Dr. Jiri KLOUDA, PRAGUE III, Malostranske Namesti. (Dr. KLOUDA is a prominent member of the National Socialist Party and the son of former Senator Antonin KLOUDA.) Dr. KLOUDA saw the official Czech documents containing evidence concerning the death of Jan MASARYK.

(1) The autopsy on MASARYK's body was performed at Prof. KLAJER's University Clinic. The original report on the autopsy is not to be found among the official documents. There is only a copy, not signed by Professor KLAJER or any of his assistants. Furthermore, the report contains only the first part (called the "nales"), a description of what was found. The second part (the "posudek"), the opinion on the probable cause of death, a regular part of such a report, is missing. (The contents of "nales": fractures of foot; legs drawn up; backbone broken; several ribs broken; lungs torn apart; aorta stopped; spleen torn away; on the belly a trauma about four square inches in size.)

(2) Testimony of the fireman: He found the dead body of Jan MASARYK in the courtyard at 6:15 a.m.

(3) Testimony of the janitor: At 6:00 a.m. he looked at the place where the body was found later, and saw nothing.

(4) The coroner who was called to view the body was Dr. JEPLY. He came at 7:00 a.m. and ascertained that death had occurred two or three hours before.

(5) Testimony of the policemen sent to MASARYK's room after the body had been taken there: They were first instructed to admit two high officials from the President's office and all Cabinet Ministers. Later the order was changed,

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and no one was to be permitted to enter. Before the order was granted, Dr. JIRKA from the President's office came and stood near the bed for several minutes.

(6) Testimony of MASARYK's valet: Jan MASARYK returned after 3:00 p.m. from ESIMOVO USTI (the President's summer resort) and took a nap. He did not leave his rooms after that. He worked and read letters and wires that had come in during his absence. In the afternoon, he received Dr. KAVAN, the Czech Press Attache from LONDON. In the evening he took his dinner. About 2030 hours his valet left and, after that time, no one saw MASARYK alive.

(7) MASARYK's apartment was found in the morning in a state of extreme disorder. Featherbed and pillows were found in the bathroom and in the tub. (In official documents nothing is said about the cigarette stubs mentioned in the report of the Czechoslovak Press Bureau (CTU) which announced MASARYK's death to the public.)

(8) MASARYK's fingers and palms were covered with dust, as if they had gripped some stick or pole and held on in an attempt to prevent being thrown out of the window. The body was dirty with feces in the rectum. (Source is not sure whether he read in the official documents or heard elsewhere that on the wall of the bathroom were feces-marked finger marks.)

b. Conflicting Reports Concerning Cause of MASARYK's Death

When MASARYK's death occurred, KOHAK was still diplomatic correspondent on the editorial staff of Svobodne Slovo. He learned of MASARYK's death immediately upon his arrival at the office. The telephone operator told him that many people were asking whether it were true that MASARYK had committed suicide. KOHAK immediately called Rudolf KOMON of the Associated Press, told him the news, and asked him to verify it. About an hour later KOMON confirmed the news by telephone, saying that MASARYK had jumped out of a window. (Card)

Source then told his new editor-in-chief, Karel JISE. JISE was very much excited and said that he would call Minister Dr. SLECHTA, one of the two National socialist ministers in the new GOTTHARD government, for confirmation of the report. After ten minutes he reported with obvious relief, "It was not suicide but a heart attack. SLECHTA says that all rumors of suicide are merely a whispering campaign."

About an hour later, the official report stating that MASARYK had committed suicide was issued by the official Czech Press Bureau.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Henry P. Schardt*  
HENRY P. SCHARDT  
Capt AGD  
Intelligence Chief

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