

## HOW MINORITIES LIVE

### THE CZECHO-SLOVAK-RUMANIAN MINORITY TREATY ENSURES THE SMALL MINORITIES RIGHTS WHICH THESE STATES REFUSE TO THE HUNGARIANS

The December 16th issue of the "*Monitorul Oficial*", the Rumanian official gazette, publishes the text of the Convention between Czecho-Slovakia and Rumania signed on October 22nd, 1936, and relating to the school and intellectual questions of the Czecho-Slovak and Rumanian minorities of Rumania and Czecho-Slovakia respectively which supplements the declarations signed in Prague on January 21st and in Bucharest on March 1st, 1930, respectively. In all villages containing not less than 30 children of schooling age whose mother tongue is Rumanian the Czecho-Slovak Republic is required to establish a public elementary school with Rumanian as the language of instruction: Rumania being required to undertake the same measures in respect of children of Czecho-Slovak nationality living in that country. In these schools the official language of the State is to be taught only from the third standard upwards — 4 hours a week being set apart for that purpose. Although as a rule the teachers must be citizens of the respective State, nevertheless, until suitable citizens of that State are available, teachers who are nationals of the other contracting State must be allowed to teach, provided that they have acquired the prescribed qualifications in their own country and that there is no serious objection raised against them. Their salaries must correspond to those of the other teachers. They are required within a period of five years to take a supplement examination in the language, history and geography of that State in the territory of which their schools are situated. In order to ensure the provision of a suitable staff of teachers, in one or two teachers' training colleges in the State in question masters possessing proper qualifications must be appointed for the purpose of training candidates in the language and literature of the respective minority and if possible of singing too. These masters must be nationals of the State in which the training colleges are situated. Should no such masters be available, citizens of the other contracting State must be engaged. Those children showing especial proficiency who are preparing to act as teachers in the minority schools must be granted special

allowances by the contracting State in question. In order to ensure the preparatory training of these pupils, the teaching of the Rumanian or the Czech language respectively must be provided for in four classes of either a "city" school or a secondary school. The contracting States must provide also that the minority schools shall have at their disposal the requisite reading books and text-books and all school requisites too; indeed — subject to the previous approval of the educational authorities — these books and appliances may be imported also from the other contracting State. In those villages in which the distribution of the population or geographical difficulties or the lack of communications prevent the establishment of such schools, courses in Rumanian or Czech respectively extending to the most important elementary school subjects are to be organised. All applications relating to the establishment of Rumanian or Czech private elementary schools respectively are to be handled with particular courtesy. This agreement ensures the 14,000 Rumanians in Czecho-Slovakia and the 44,000 Czechs and Slovaks of Rumania rights which the 1 million Hungarians of Czecho-Slovakia and the 1.5 million Hungarians of Rumania have been demanding in vain. When will the latter be able to boast of having 1 public elementary school for every 30 children of schooling age or of being able to appoint teachers from Hungary?

### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

#### VALIDITY OF PARTY PROHIBITION AND DISSOLUTION ACT ABOUT TO BE PROLONGED

On October 25th, 1933, when the events connected with the Nyitra "Pribina" celebrations in Slovakia and in the historical provinces the violent upheavals caused by the spread of the German national socialist ideas threatened to subvert the foundations of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, the Government made Parliament pass a law in terms of which the Government was empowered to suspend or prohibit definitively the activity of any parties which might endanger to any considerable extent the independence, constitutional unity, integrity, democratic republican character or security of the State. This Act, the retaliatory measures contained in which have since then been hanging like a sword of Damocles over the heads of the minority and opposition parties generally, expires at the end of 1937. So on December 13th the Government presented a bill in terms of which the validity of the said Act is to be prolonged until January 1st, 1939, and in addition provides for powers to be vested in the provincial offices (authorities) enabling the same to dissolve the local organisations and circuits of "dangerous" parties of the kind, and indeed to prevent the employees of those

parties from functioning in party matters. The Bill having been opposed most strenuously by the opposition parties, the Government has withdrawn it; but it is preparing to introduce another Bill, which it proposes to put up for discussion after the New Year. The withdrawal of the original Bill is to be attributed to the fact that it would have been very awkward for the Government if during the visit of M. Delbos, French Foreign Minister, there should have been a continuation of the attacks made by the Opposition on a Bill which is a crass flouting of the fundamental principles of democracy; though the Government will nevertheless not shrink from re-introducing the Bill now that the excitement caused by the visit of M. Delbos has subsided.

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### HOW HUNGARIAN CHILDREN ARE BEING DENATIONALISED

The following data are taken from a speech delivered recently by Count John Esterházy, Acting Vice-President of the United Hungarian Party of Czecho-Slovakia, in the Budgetary Committee of the Prague Parliament.

Hungarian elementary education has not yet been standardized and regulated by law. The laws dealing with it in force in the historical provinces differ from those in force in Slovakia and Ruthenia. The question of infant schools has not been regulated either.

The organization of Hungarian elementary schools is a problem that has got entangled in a web of administrative and educational red-tape, and eight or ten years are needed before the establishment of a Hungarian school becomes a *fait accompli*. When it is a question of establishing Czecho-Slovak schools in Hungarian places, there is no such difficulty. The tax-office officials, the gendarmes and the postmaster put their heads together and the work of organizing a Czecho-Slovak school begins. Nine or ten Czech or Slovak children serve as a pretext, a nucleus; the rest are recruited from among the proletarian children of Hungarian nationality, who are coaxed into attending the Czecho-Slovak school with promises of free school-books, clothes and shoes for the winter, and other presents. Then the secretary of the Slovak League appears in the village, draws up a petition, gets the parents to sign it and takes it to the school-inspector's office. The school-inspector submits it to the Ministry, and in a short time a Slovak or Czech teacher is appointed. Premises and material expenses are provided by the Slovak League.

But if it is a question of opening a Hungarian school, it must be discussed by the local parish council, and securities provided that all expenses will be met. It must be approved of by the school-inspector, the prefect, the *rappporteur* on educational

matters and the Provincial Office, and then endorsed by the Ministry of Education and the Finance Ministry. When at long last the application reaches the Ministries it may lie among the files for years unless somebody keeps on urging the matter.

To this very day no school-boards have been organized in Slovakia and Ruthenia. As a result all educational affairs are decided by the central educational authorities, and neither parents nor other persons interested have any say in the matter. This state of affairs places unlimited power in the hands of the educational authorities, who, without exception, are Czechs or Slovaks. It also explains why there are educational matters (such, for instance, as the licence to establish Hungarian secondary schools in Ungvár and Léva, or the opening of Hungarian elementary schools in Csécs and Makranc) which have not been settled yet after ten years of petitions and intervention. This is the sabotage which had been pointed out by the President of the Republic and which it would seem is not only connived at by the superior authorities, but also encouraged by them.

It is an unfair disadvantage to the Hungarian schools, and a thing that might have been arranged with a little goodwill, that many of them — elementary, secondary and technical schools — are not independent, but merely parallel classes, so-called Hungarian sections, of the Czecho-Slovak ones. The Hungarian minority has every right to demand that they should be made independent and it is a sad thing, and one characteristic of Czecho-Slovakia's minority policy, that nineteen years have not proved enough for the execution of a purely administrative measure. According to the latest statistics 36 of the Hungarian elementary schools are sections of this sort and half of the 25 Hungarian board schools are not independent. Most of the Hungarian secondary schools are simply sections of the Czecho-Slovak secondary schools, and the only Hungarian commercial academy in Slovakia, the one in Pozsony, is also under the administration of the Slovak Institute. This is true also of the industrial school in Kassa. The "section" system is a disadvantage to Hungarian education because the administration of the school is conducted in the official language of the State: most of the headmasters do not speak Hungarian and are therefore quite unfit to administer and supervise Hungarian schools. In addition to this all the material means of the school, even the money collected from the pupils and their parents (Hungarian parents), is devoted primarily to the ends of the Slovak schools.

While real palaces are being built with the most modern furniture and equipment for the Czecho-Slovak youth, the Hungarian schools have no decent premises, except in places where the village or some denomination has erected more or less suitable buildings.

If a child's name sounds Slav, that child is forced against

his own and his parent' wishes to attend a Slovak school. There are villages — such as Nagyborsa — of which it has been unilaterally decided without any expert opinion that they are old Slovak settlements. In places of that sort the Hungarian schools were arbitrarily closed, and the Hungarian children are obliged, in spite of all protests, petitions and complaints on the part of their parents, to attend Slovak schools. According to the latest report of the Slovak League, issued in September, in 1936 the League established 21 new Czecho-Slovak schools in the Republic, 4 in German and 17 in Hungarian districts. The organization of Czecho-Slovak schools has been continued without interruption this year too, and 1,270.000 Czech crowns were appropriated for this object in the first eight months of 1937. And everybody knows that this big sum was not collected out of school fees. Among the leaders of the Slovak League are to be found many prefects, school-inspectors and active politicians.

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### BOOKS NOT ALLOWED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

It has frequently been noted in these columns that all Hungarian books must be examined by the Censor of the Police Court at Pozsony (Bratislava) before they are allowed to be distributed in Slovakia and Ruthenia. Here are some books that have been rejected by the Censor: Missionary Calendar of St. Anthony of Padua for the year 1936. — Ancient Hungarian Churches. — Révai's Encyclopaedia. — Rosary Calendar, 1936. — 1815—1920: the History of a Stirring Century. — The Recapture of Buda, 1686. — Dr. Gyula Czapik: Suggestions for Sunday Sermons. — The Work done by the Clergy in the History of Hungary and of the World. — Anecdotes of the Great War (by János Komáromi). — Philological Review, Nos. 7—12, 1936. — Pharmacopoea Hungarica Quarta.

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### THE "TIMES" ON THE GERMAN MINORITY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Writing (in connection with the visit to London of M. Chauvemp, French Premier, and M. Delbos, Foreign Minister) of the Sudeta German problem, which is a cause of so much anxiety to the different Foreign Offices, "The Times" of 29th November says:

"It is as clear to-day as ever that, whatever individual nations may wish for themselves or others, an attempt to upset by force the Versailles settlement in further Europe would almost surely prove the beginning of a general war. Does the deduction follow that no effort should therefore be made at

any time to amend the settlement by agreement? Because the weight of the Western Powers is likely at all times to be exerted against aggression, has Czechoslovakia no responsibility at all for the present state of affairs and no obligation of any kind to discuss the terms on which, by mutual consent, the status of the great German minority might be made compatible with good relations with the Reich? Does any sensible being suppose that a settlement made without Germany, and maintained against her, can become permanent by the mere fiat of France and Soviet Russia? Who, looking at the composition of the Czechoslovak State and the conformation of its boundaries, can fail to see that German good will is an essential of its security? It will be statesmanship to help the weak against the overbearing dictate of the strong, but it cannot be statesmanship to organize and encourage antagonism between them, and actually to equip the strong with all the strength of a just grievance. These are the questions which call for farsighted examination in Prague, Paris, and London."

#### FROM THE MINUTES OF AN EXCITING DAY IN CZECH PARLIAMENT

*The speaker is M. Sidor member of the Slovak People's Party*

At the meeting of the Prague House of Deputies on December 3rd the atmosphere was heated to a white heat probably unparalleled even in the Chamber which had seen so many scandalous scenes during the previous nineteen years. It was a speech made by M. Charles Sidor. Deputy belonging to the Slovak Catholic People's Party, that brought matters to a head; the speech was made with the previous approval of Monsignor Andrew Hlinka and the parliamentary club of the Party. In his speech M. Sidor dealt exhaustively with the political history of Slovakia during the Czech régime, emphasising in particular the police rule and network of spies which the Czech régime had introduced in the territories severed from Hungary; and his speech culminated in a demand that the Czechs should at long last grant Slovakia the autonomy in respect of legislation, local government and administration of justice which the Pittsburg Convention signed also by M. G. Thomas Masaryk had guaranteed. The Deputies belonging to the Czech Government Party indulged in vehement interruptions by way of protest against the hard words used by M. Sidor. Their indignation rose to such a pitch that — according to the "Lidové Noviny", a Czech journal, — the expressions used by them could not possibly be reproduced. What would seem to have roused their indignation most particularly and to have been most disagreeable to them was the fact that Sidor's speech was made at a juncture when the inter-

national situation of Czecho-Slovakia was exceptionally grave. That is what we may gather also from the speech made by the Czech Agrarian Deputy M. Dubiczky, who loudly protested and said that M. Sidor's speech was an unheard-of lapse in the given international situation.

Below we cite a few passages from M. Sidor's speech. We are unfortunately not in a position to quote the strongest — and in all probability the most characteristic — passages, seeing that they are not at our disposal, having been simply cut out by a very original institution of Czech "democracy", the Censor functioning in the Speaker's office, while the Censor functioning under the Public Prosecutor had deleted a considerable part of the text passed by the parliamentary Censor. The result is that the organ of M. Sidor's Party, the "Slovák", from the December 4th and 6th issues of which we have taken the passages quoted below, teems with blank spaces imposed by the Censor.

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Early in his speech M. Sidor criticised M. Dérer, Minister of Justice, making the following comments, *inter alia*, on the Pittsburg Convention:

"I cannot agree either with the attitude adopted by Minister Dérer to the effect that was signed by G. T. Masaryk in America could not be binding on the citizens of this State in Europe, seeing that G. T. Masaryk was a democrat and in consequence could not foist his will on the citizens of the new democratic State. This interpretation given by M. Dérer will not hold water, simply because G. T. Masaryk was already acting in his capacity as elected President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic when he signed the Pittsburg Convention.

"His signature is valid and is binding on all citizens of this State alike" (*cheers*), "just as much as does that other signature of the President which was dated the same day as the Pittsburg Convention. I refer to what we are told by G. T. Masaryk on page 364 of his work entitled "World Revolution": — "This is how, prior to my leaving America, I signed the first loan of ten million dollars." By this act he therefore bound, not only himself, but all of us citizens of Czecho-Slovakia; and we had to acknowledge the said debt of ten million dollars. Equally binding on us all is therefore the signature to the Pittsburg Convention. Nevertheless, Minister Dérer and his friends in the Cabinet are not prepared to acknowledge the binding force of the signature appended by President Masaryk to the Pittsburg Convention. That is illogical and also to a certain extent a want of respect for the Great Dead. That is the point on which I differ from Dr. Dérer, Minister of Justice, in respect of the interpretation of the legally binding character of the Pittsburg Convention". — Then the Censor deleted three lines.

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Very noteworthy was what M. Sidor said about the Tuka case: "The secret police departments and their private hirelings and spies in Slovakia wanted to prove to Prague that their previous reports on the situation in Slovakia were true... The Slavičeks and Klimas of the Tuka trial desired to prove that a campaign of propaganda advocating a return to Hungary was going on in Slovakia" (*Interruptions.*) "and that it was the work of militia organizations directed by Dr. Tuka." (*Here the censor has deleted 27 lines.*)

M. Sivák, Deputy-Speaker, (ringing bell): "I beg the honourable members to compose themselves."

M. Sidor: "In that report Weiner" (a Czech agent provocateur who later on turned against the Czechs and disclosed the fact that the chief witness in the Tuka case, Christina Schramm, a caretaker of Viennese origin, had been bribed just before she was called to give evidence. Ed.) "introduces to his readers the figure of Colonel Moimir Scukup..." (*Loud cries. The Deputy-Speaker rings bell.*), "who entrusted Weiner with the task of collecting evidence for the Tuka trial in Austria." (*Incessant Interruptions.*)

Deputy-Speaker Sivák (ringing bell): "Order! Order!"

M. Sidor: ...

(Here the parliamentary censor has deleted 14 lines.)

M. Sidor: Amidst constant interruptions and a heated argument between the members of the Slovak People's Party and those of the Coalition and the ringing of the Deputy-Speaker's bell, M. Sidor went on with his speech.

M. Dubický (Czech Agrarian Party): "I had a better opinion of you, but today's speech has changed it."

M. Sidor: "I am ready to give you satisfaction." (*M. Dubický continued to shout.*)

Deputy-Speaker (*rings bell*): "I beg M. Dubický to compose himself."

M. Sidor continues his speech:

(*9 lines deleted by the Parliamentary censor.*)

M. Dubický (amidst a volley of exclamations): "You are a Catholic Party and yet you condemn others."

M. Sidor: "Yes, we are a Catholic Party. Gentlemen, this is how political trials were conducted in Slovakia in the era of the Slavičeks and Klimas, with witnesses paid with money from the common State Treasury. We know the whole background of the Tuka case. The Tuka trial was designed to exclude Hlinka's Slovak People's Party from participation in the process of consolidation." (*Heated argument between members of the Slovak Party and of the Coalition Parties.*) "At that time the Slovak Party was a Government Party, and conditions in Slovakia were becoming consolidated in the spirit of that coalition and not in the spirit of the Slavičeks, Klimas and certain others subordinate to them." (*Cries of "Shame!"... "Traitors!"*)

Deputy-Speaker Sivák (*rings bell*): "Order!"



M. Sidor: "The desired end was achieved. When Dr. Voitech Tuka was sentenced by the court of the first instance, the Slovak People's Party abandoned the Coalition.

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After recalling the meeting of the Slovak Matica on 12th May 1932 at which the majority of that Slovak cultural organization outvoted the "Czechoslovak" directorate and adopted a resolution against the Czechization of the Slovak language, — then the congress of the Slovak youth held in Trenčské Teplice that same year at which a stand was made for the national ambitions of the Slovak nation, — and lastly the united action of the Catholic and Lutheran Slovaks for autonomy, and the Pribina festivals in the August of 1933, when the Slovaks enforced their will that Hlinka, whom the Czechs did not want to allow to speak at all, should be the first speaker instead of Premier Malypetr, — M. Sidor continued as follows:

"Immediately after the events in Nyitra the old story began again. Slaviček and Klíma, it is true, were dead, but their methods of "consolidation" were still in force in Slovakia. There came a series of investigations; hundreds of private persons were intimidated and prosecuted. But all this terror and jailing and the suppression of the autonomist press proved of no avail. The usual methods of intimidation were employed: for instance, a political trial was instituted against the Lutheran autonomist, Louis Bazovsky, and his friends in Pozsony. During the trial, which was an exact counterpart of the Tuka trial, Slovak public opinion was horrified to see what weapons were being used against the Slovak autonomist politicians. Characters who had played a part in the Tuka trial stepped out from behind the scenes. As witnesses, there appeared Dr. Milan Ivánka (a Slovak lawyer of Pozsony. *Ed.*), Dr. Joseph Smida (the head of Ivánka's office. *Ed.*) and Vencel Mihalus..."

(5 lines deleted.)

M. Sidor: "...He passed judgment on the quick and the dead. (Ivánka. *Ed.*) In his leisure hours he is still engaged in composing indictments and from a political point of view his importance is steadily on the wane. On 12th June, 1934, Hlinka addressed a question to the Minister of the Interior in connection with Milan Ivánka's suspicious activities. In that question the leader of our Slovak Party asked the following questions: 1. Does the Minister of the Interior know of the allegation that the Police Office in Bratislava (Pozsony) is paying a monthly sum of 2.500 Czech crowns to Vencel Mihalus and that furniture costing 15.000 Czech crowns is said to have been bought for the same Mihalus by the Police?" (Mihalus was the Czechs' chief witness, not only in the Bazovsky case, but also at the League of Nations' inquiry after the Marseilles murder. A description of his character was given in this paper at the time. *Ed.*) (M. Wallo: "Mihalus ran away when Tuka was imprisoned.")

M. Sidor: "He was an agent before he went to Baden." 2. Is the Minister of the Interior prepared to explain this matter to a public opinion uneasy, indignant and excited to the highest degree? Will the Minister tell us whether it is true that Milan Ivánka is the head of the Police Bureau in Bratislava (Pozsony)? The Minister of the Interior replied to this question of Hlinka's on 14th September, 1934. In his reply he stated that all reports to the effect that any person not belonging officially to the Police was collaborating in the work of the Police Bureau in Bratislava (Pozsony) was untrue. Meanwhile, however, the Bazovsky case was tried in Bratislava and we know of Ivánka's evidence from the official minutes of the courts. Dr. Ivánka gave evidence that Vencel Mihalus was a man who had proclaimed the independence of Slovakia and then left for Austria, and who had been recognized as the president of independent Slovakia by no less a person than the King of Siam." (Siam did recognize Slovakia as an independent Slovak State in 1928. At the time the ignorance of the Siamese Government was the cause of much mirth in Central Europe. Ed.) "With Dr. Ivánka's aid he was able to return to the Czecho-Slovak Republic unpunished. Through Dr. Smida, Ivánka sent money to Vienna for Mihalus, who settled in Baden near Vienna, where he lived in comfort. According to the information at our disposal, Mihalus received a salary of 5000 crowns from Bratislava. Dr. Ivánka — so he stated in court — undertook to act as security for the price of the furniture bought by Mihalus and paid the furniture dealers 7.000 crowns. We see, then, that, besides the official department of public security for which the head of the Police and either the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of National Defence are responsible, there is another network over which Milan Ivánka rules and which is financed by him." (*Cries of "That's true!"*)

*The next 12 lines have been deleted by the Parliamentary Censor.*

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In conclusion M. Sidor said: —

"Gentlemen, you have employed every form of terror and the methods of a Slaviček and Klima" (the first Czech police prefects of Slovakia: Ed.), "and keep sending various elements to that country. One thing is sure: this Party and the Slovak nationalism which it has propagated you will never succeed in annihilating or tearing from the heart of the Slovak people" (*applause from the benches of the Slovak People's Party Deputies*). "Go on with your work of solving our problems by the aid of the butts of police-guns, as you did recently in the streets of Bratislava (Pozsony), where the university students were beaten by the police for daring to proclaim the watchword "Use Slovak in Slovakia" (*interruptions*). "You quite recently paid a domiciliary visit to the editorial offices of the "Nástup" and immediately after this visit (which lasted five hours) you suspended the appearance of the "Nástup" for six months.

Ignorant as you are of the mentality of the Slovak youth, you believe that by doing so you have cowed them and disarmed them. Your servant, Coloman Bieličky, District Attorney of Érsekújvár, a few days ago forbade the celebration of the name-day of Monsignor Hlinka to curry your favour and obtain the title of Government Councillor. But the anti-Slovak procedure of Government has in my opinion reached its culmination in the question of Černova and Ružomberok (Rózsahegy). On October 27th the Prime Minister, M. Hodža, went to the Černova cemetery to do homage to our fifteen martyrs; and now his Government...  
*(shouts of protest: the parliamentary Censor has deleted six lines).*

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### THE RESOLUTION OF THE SLOVAK PEOPLE'S PARTY ON THE EVE OF M. DELBOS' ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE

In reply to the attacks directed against them by M. Sidor, a Slovak Deputy, the deputies and senators representing the Slovak People's Party in the National Assembly, issued a declaration on December 15, i. e. on the eve of M. Delbos' arrival in Prague, stating that the Slovaks never give up their status as an individual nation and their right to the home rule of Slovakia. In this struggle the Party refused to be intimidated by anyone or anything; it, therefore, most resolutely those repeated attacks which had been launched against it on account of the speeches made by its representatives during the Budget debate in the National Assembly. The Czech parties and the Czech press endeavoured to divert the attention of the public from the ardent problem of a radical settlement in Slovakia by recalling the Tuka-case. The Party, on the other hand, declared that it considered the Tuka-case legally settled. At the same time, the Party seized the opportunity to condemn those political methods which are being employed in Czecho-Slovakia against "undesirable" political factors, and against which the Party would not cease to fight. The Party was struggling for the natural and sacred rights of the Slovak nation; it was conscious of its rights and of the righteousness of its cause, and it would therefore invariably reply to attack with counter attack and to tendencies of dissolution by unanimity and unity.

### REPRESENTATIVES OF POLISH MINORITY SUBMIT THEIR NATIONAL DEMANDS

On 7th December, Premier Hodža saw the representatives of the Polish Parties of Czecho-Slovakia. Herr Wolf outlined the position of the Polish minority. The Rev. Mr. Buzek stated their demands, as set forth in the memorandum presented to the Premier. Professor Badura pointed out that it was necessary to

accede to these demands, both from the standpoint of democracy and in the interests of the Polish minority. Herr Junga, member of the Provincial Diet, stated the wishes of the Polish agriculturists. The Rev. Mr. Berger begged the Government to endorse the constitution of the Lutheran Church. In his reply M. Hodža admitted that the requests of the Polish minority contained nothing incompatible with the Constitution of the Republic and said that in keeping with the fundamental principles of minority policy as laid down on 18th February, the Government would give them due consideration.

The "Dziennik Polski", a Polish paper appearing in Czecho-Slovakia, expresses its opinion that this statement will meet the same fate as all the other statements made by M. Hodža; it will remain an empty phrase uttered obviously in order to enhance the effect of the clever arrangement of M. Delbos' visit. If the Government really wished to redress the grievances of the Polish minority, it would first of all have to make sure that its subordinate authorities obeyed its instructions instead of pursuing an arbitrary frontier-policy of their own.

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The semi-official organ "Gazeta Polska" wrote on November 25th that the Polish Consul in Märjisch-Ostrau had invited those Polish citizens who had been dismissed from their work, to report at the Consulate so that he might intervene for them with the authorities. The paper then recalled number of cases to illustrate the recent dismissal of large groups of Polish employees from the Czecho-Slovak factories.

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### RUMANIA

#### IN FUTURE THE WORK OF THE CENSOR WILL BE DONE BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES

A decree recently issued by State Secretary General Marinescu of the Ministry of the Interior has taken the duties of the censor out of the hands of the civil authorities and placed them in those of the military departments. The new system of press supervision has already been introduced in Kolozsvár. In future press matter may not be published until every sheet submitted bears the stamp of the censor's office with the words "*Bun de imprimat*". A noteworthy innovation introduced by the new system is that no blank spaces are allowed, nor is it permitted to fill up the places left vacant by the deleted passages with advertisements, but new passages that fit into the text of the article in question must be written. On pain of confiscation and suppression the newspapers must be submitted for examina-

tion by the censor a second time before circulation. The decree also orders a preliminary censuring of all scientific works and *belles lettres* if they deal with world philosophies. This order also applies to calendars "Keleti Ujság", December 9).

On October 3rd a leading article was published by the "Prágai Magyar Hirlap", in which M. Gyula Koczor, sometime member of the National Assembly, replied to certain allusions in the Premier's recent speech given at Pozsony. With reference to § 14 of the Defence Act of the Republic, the Attorney General at Prague ordered the suppression of the following passage: "We see, on the other hand, that new schools are constantly being built even for 2 or 5 Czecho-Slovak children in the Hungarian regions, the pupils of these schools being recruited from the Hungarian children in these areas; nor does the Hungarian minority receive its due share under the various budgets even now; with regard to the rights of the Hungarian language the practice has remained unchanged. I could write pages..."

#### OFFICIALS TO BE PROSECUTED BY COURT MARTIAL IF THEY SPEAK A MINORITY LANGUAGE

The "Buna Veskire", a paper published at Kishenev, writes that the military Commander in that city has issued a strict order to the State officials, saying that they may not speak any other language than Rumanian when on duty. Those who infringe this order and speak a minority language, will be liable to persecution by Court Martial. — y —

#### THE CREW OF SHIPS — TO FALL UNDER THE "NUMERUS VALLACHICUS"

A decree issued by the Ministry of Labour to the harbour authorities of Galata provides that 90% of the crew of ships must consist of Rumanians, while the remaining 10% may be "foreigners" ("Magyar Ujság", December 2).

#### TEN THOUSAND GERMAN CHILDREN IN THE BUCOVINA RECEIVE NO GERMAN INSTRUCTION

The "Banater Deutsche Zeitung" (Nov. 23) writes that ten thousand German children in the Bucovina have no opportunity to receive instruction in their mother-tongue. The Rumanian authorities have even refused to permit the creation of a German School Society.

## YUGOSLAVIA

## WHAT HAS BEEN FULFILLED OF THE PROMISES MADE TO THE HUNGARIANS

Dr. Leo Deák, a Hungarian solicitor in Zombor and one of the leaders of the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia, on December 7 visited the Minister of Agriculture, M. Stankovitch, and the Minister of Education, M. Magarashevitch, asking them to remedy the grievances of the Hungarians and to fulfil the promises which several members of the Cabinet had made on four occasions, and the Premier, M. Stoiadinovitch, himself on two occasions. Of these numerous promises only a few have been fulfilled so far; thus, for instance, the transference of some Hungarian teachers has led to the reopening of a number of so called "parallel" sections in the State schools; after a compulsory interval of three years the so-called "parallel section" of the Teachers' Training Centre in Belgrade has also been reopened; *two* of the newly founded Hungarian cultural leagues have had their statutes approved by the authorities. — Instead of the actual restoration of the two school buildings in Zombor — which had been confiscated from the Roman Catholic church without any compensation being offered — or the payment of the rent for the past years, which had already been promised by the authorities, Dr. Deák received further *promises*.

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## 85—90.000 HUNGARIANS IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA WITHOUT SCHOOLS

A large number of Hungarians are still living in Maradik, Syrmia (formerly Southern Hungary), for whose children there are no Hungarian schools available in the whole district. Their application for the establishment of a Hungarian school has been repeatedly refused. Just recently the Hungarian inhabitants applied for the establishment of a Hungarian section for 136 children, but with no success ("A Nép", Nov. 20). — In this connection we would remind our readers that the Hungarian population of Croatia and Slovenia — numbering 85—90.000 — has not one Hungarian school to which to send its children.

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## ONLY LEDGERS WRITTEN IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE STATE CONSIDERED WITH REGARD TO THE ASSESSMENT OF TAXES

In a verdict brought on January 23, under No. 576/1937, the State Council passed a highly significant decision in principle; the verdict concerned the appeal of a Slovenian firm against

the decision of the committee of assessors, the appeal being founded on the firm's ledgers which were written in German. The official language of Yugoslavia, the verdict of the State Council says, is the Serbo-Croatian-Slovenian language, according to § 3 of the Constitution; consequently, *the language of the State is the only language to be used before and by the State authorities, either in writing or in speech.* Any evidence written in any other language may be considered only in so far as it is accompanied by an official translation. The same fact appears from an edict issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 25, 1921, under No. VI—Br. 1588, according to which all foreign joint stock companies and private firms must write their ledgers in the language of the State. If, this then, applies in the case of foreign firms, it must apply even more strictly in the case of inland firms. In a word, no ledgers written in any foreign language may be used in evidence either before the committees of assessors or before the committees of appeal. This decision of the State Council forms a strange contrast to the provisions of § 3, Art. 7 of the Minority Agreement.

## PROLONGATION OF BAN ON HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS

An edict issued on Nov. 25, by the Ministry of the Interior approves the introduction into Yugoslavia of 11 periodical publications from Hungary, such as medical, economic, cooperative, and sporting journals, etc. ("Napló" and "Vreme", Nov. 27). The ban on the introduction of newspapers from Hungary has, however, not been removed. — y —

## PROSECUTION OF TWO AUTONOMISTS IN THE VOIVODINA

Two citizens of Zombor, — a Hungarian solicitor, Dr. Dezső Bottlik, and a Bunyevatz solicitor, Dr. Giga Vukovitch, — have been accused by the Attorney General of Zombor of political provocation, under the Defence of the State Act; addressing a public meeting in 1936 the accused had declared, it appears, that M. Maček was fighting, not only for the autonomy of Croatia, but also for that of the Voivodina. For this reason they invited those present to join the party fighting for Voivodina's home rule ("Reggeli Ujság", and "Új Hírek", Oct. 27). — y —

## TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SERB GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF ÚJVIDÉK

On December 12th bicentenary was celebrated at Újvidék (Novisad) of the local Serb Pravoslav Grammar School, which was converted into a State School in 1920. This secondary school

has played an eminent part in the history of the Serb people in the past two hundred years, not only of the Serbs living in Hungary, but of the whole of the Serbian nation in general. For until the thirties of the last century this school — besides the school maintained by the Patriarchate of Karlovac (also in Hungary) — was the only educational establishment providing for the education of the leaders of the Serbian people. Moreover, together with the "Srpska Matica", the first cultural league of the Serbs founded about a hundred years ago in the same town (i. e. Újvidék), this school served as the hotbed of Serbia's national culture. Not without reason did Stanoye Stanoyevitch, the eminent Serb historian, call Újvidék the "Athens of the Serbs".

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