

## SLOVAK TERRITORIAL DEMANDS IN MORAVIA

BY  
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**I**n the parts remaining to Czecho-Slovakia after the dismemberment decided upon in Munich, fresh, apparently insoluble ethnic questions have arisen, which proves that the detachment of the areas inhabited by Hungarians, Sudeten Germans and Poles has not settled the population problems of that mosaic State. The Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks and Ruthenians remaining in the bosom of one State have not yet come to an agreement regarding the territorial limits of their own ethnic bodies, and now that it has come to drawing the frontiers between the three peoples, — now that after twenty years of procrastination the autonomous Slovak and Ruthenian areas are to be delimited, — it turns out that this is likely to lead to serious complications.

During the past twenty years the Slovaks and Ruthenians have been constantly quarrelling about those frontiers. The Slovaks wish to expand towards the east, the Ruthenians towards the west, each at the other's expense.

The events of the past week permit of the conclusion that, like the Slovak-Ruthenian frontier problem, the question of the frontier between the Slovaks and the Czechs will give rise to a serious conflict in the near future. The Slovaks are not contented with the territory possessed in pre-war Hungary; they also lay claim to the eastern part of Moravia. Now that they wish to delimit the frontiers of their autonomous State, they most energetically demand this area of Moravia. In connection with this question the "Slovak" of 6th November published an article by *Louis Miskovic* entitled

"Where Do Slovaks Dwell in Moravia?" Certain important passages of that article run as follows:

"During the past few months a wave of political, social and ethnic adjustment has swept over Europe and has resulted in quite large displacements in the map of that Continent.

"The process was begun by the Germans, but from the outset it was evident that they would demand not only their own rights, but also those of the rest of the nations. On the strength of these rights our Poles and Hungarians also demanded their separation from Czecho-Slovakia. And now the time has come for the Slovaks to demand their rights too.

"We have an account to settle with the Czechs, for among other things they are keeping ten towns and 239 villages in Moravia the inhabitants of which are Slovaks separated from Slovakia. (We say nothing about Valaska, which has lost its Slovak character.) If this region is not speedily regained, it will be lost to Slovakia for ever. It is a monstrous injustice that our Slovak brethren, the sons of the same Slovak nation as ourselves, should have no Slovak schools and administrative departments yet and that they are not members of the political body of the Slovak nation to which, by virtue of their ethnic origin and historical rights, they belong. For this reason our official leaders must strain every nerve to ensure that this Slovak group is attached to our country, the more so since they themselves demand it.

"What then do we want of Moravia? Nothing but what is our due from an ethnographic point of view. We demand the region inhabited by Slovaks, the frontier of which, beginning at Pozsony, follows the Danube and the Morva; then, turning to the north-west, winds up to Vychodney Marky, which now belongs to Germany, runs through Cáhnov and Valcic, from whence it deviates into South Moravia and runs across the mountains at Felsöc-Pavloskan Zdánske, Chribyn and Vizovské. In Moravia, more especially in Moravian Silesia, there are Slovaks living in the following towns besides those enumerated by Niederle: Uherské Hradíste, Uh. Brod, Uh. Ostroh, Kyjov, Hodonin, Brslav (belonging at present to Germany), Strznic, Nepajedla, Brenec and Veseli."

The full list of the places in Moravia inhabited by Slovaks is as follows. (See L. Niederle's *Moravské Slovensko*. Prague, 1918.)

*County: Hostopec. District: Hostopec.* Velki Pavovice, Nemcicki, Kobyly, Kakvice, Sakvice, Boretice, Urbice; *District: Klobouky.* Brumovice, Krumvir, Morkuvki.

*County: Kyjovi. District: Kyjovi.* Blisice, Bohuslavice, Borsov, Bezovice, Bukovány, Celoznice, Hysle, Hostejov, Jestrabice, Jezov, Leskovec, Kelcany, Korycany, Skorovice, Labut, Medlovice, Milotice, Mistrin, Morovany, Kostelec, Nicice, Osvetimany, Sardice, Skalka, Sobulky, Stavesice, Strazovice, Stupava, Svatohorice, Syrovin, Ujezdec, Vacenovice, Vlkos, Vracov, Zadovice, Zeravice. *District: Zanice.* Karlin, Neukovice, Ostrovanki, Veterov, Zeletice, Nasedlovice.

*County: Hodonin. District: Hodonin.* Bojanovice, Dolni, Cejkovice, Cejc, Dubnany, Horovany, Josefov, Luzice, Mikulcice, Mutenice, Potvorov Novy, Potvorov Stary, Prusansky, Ratiskovice, Terezov, Tesice, *District: Breclav Stara.* Bilovice, Hrusky, Podivin, Kostice, Lanzhot, Nova Ves, Lanstorf, Tynec, Tvrdonice, Zizkov. *District: Straznice.* Hrubá Vrbka, Mala Vrbka, Javornik, Knezdub, Kozojidky, Kuzelov, Lhota Hroznavá, Lhota Nova, Lhota Tvarozná, Líderovice, Lipov, Petrov, Radejov, Rohatec, Sudomerice, Tasov, Velka, Zeravice, Znorovy, Zvolenov.

*County: Holšov. District: Vizovice.* Slopé, Hor. Lhota, Dol. Lhota, Shradice, Provodov.

*County: Brod. District: Bojkovice.* Stary Hrozenkov, Bojkovice, Bzova, Hostetin, Kladna, Zilin, Komna, Krhov, Petruvka, Pitin, Preckovice, Roketnice, Rudimov. Rudice, Sanov, Zahorovice. *District: Uh. Brod.* Ujezd, Banov, Breova, Brezuvky, Bistice pod Lop., Casikov, Dobrkovice, Drslavice, Dubravy, Vel. Orechov, Havriceň Hradcovice, Ujezd Hrivny, Kanovice, Kelniky. Koritna, Lhota. Lopenik, Ludkovice, Luhacovice, Marsov, Nédachlevice, Nezenice, Nivnice, Olsovec, Pásnovice, Podhradi, Polichno, Pozlovice, Praksice, Retechov-Pradlisko, Sumice, Strany, Sucha, Loza, Tesov, Veletiny, Vlcnov, Zlamanec. *District: Val. Klobouky.* Bohuslavice, Divnice, Haluzice, Hrade Krchov, Lhota Vlachova, Lipova Nemsova, Slavicin, Mladolice, Vlachovice, Vrbetice.

*County: Uh. Hradiste. District: Napajedla.* Halenkovice, Brezolupy, Komarov, Kosiky, Kudlovice, Sarovy, Spytinov, Svarov, Topolna, Zlutavy. *District: Uh. Hradiste.* Staré Hute, Staré Mesto, Babice, Bilovice, Borsice, Brestek, Buchlovice, Derfla, Hustenovice, Javorovec, Jalubi, Jankovice, Jarosov, Knezpol, Kostelany, Kunovice, Maratice, Mikovice, Mistrice, Nekadonice, Modra, Orehov, Podoli, Piesovice, Popovice, Salas, Stribnice, Susice, Traplice, Tucapy, Tupesy, Vazany, Vceraly, Velehrad, Věsky, Zlechov. *District: Ostroh.* Borice, Chylice, Dolnemcy,

Domanin, Blatnice Velka, Blatnicka, Hluk, Hornemci, Kovacice, Lhota Ostrozska, Louka, Milokost, Nova Ves, Pisek, Slavkov, Suchov, Temnice, Uher, Ostroh, Veselské Predmesty, Zavarice.

"We demand the attachment of these Slovak areas to Slovakia, and if our demand is not acceded to now, we shall insist on it until our efforts are crowned with success. We cannot give up our own race."

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It is an interesting fact that a few days after this article appeared — on 1st December, in the evening, to be precise — a great demonstration of the students of the Slovak Academy was held in the Pozsony Concert Hall. The slogan of the meeting was "A new and free Slovakia". The large hall was crowded to overflowing, so that many people got no farther than the staircase. When "*Hej Slovaci*" had been sung, the assembly was addressed by Editor-in-chief M. Moravcik, who vehemently attacked the Czech university professors in Slovakia. His speech was constantly interrupted by a chorus of cries of "Out with the Czechs!" Moravcik appealed to the students to make a united stand on 18th December, the day of the first Slovak Parliamentary elections. This appeal was received with a storm of assent and in chorus the audience cried: — "We want a Parliament without Czechs or Jews!" Speaking on behalf of the young generation, Dr. Kirschbaum said that they would never rest until the Slovaks separated from them were granted autonomy. The audience greeted this statement with a chorus of "We want everything back!" Several times the crowd shouted that the Czechs must give back the Slovak parts of Moravia. The youth of Slovakia — said Dr. Kirschbaum — must be on the alert and see that the development of free Slovakia should take place in a Slovak spirit. In conclusion he said that even those Czechs who were friendly would have to disappear from Slovak public life. The chief speaker of the evening was Dr. Mach, the head of the Slovak propaganda department, who in a somewhat lengthy speech declared that the Slovak nation must first grow strong and should wait until it had a weapon in its hand before taking an energetic stand. When the meeting was over the audience formed themselves into a procession and led by the Academy students

marched through the streets of the town, demonstrating in chorus against the Czechs. The mood of the Slovaks is best illustrated by the fact that this demonstration of the younger generation was transmitted by the Pozsony wireless station.

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As documentary evidence of the attitude of the Slovaks towards the question of the claims made on Moravia we publish the following letter to the editor of the "Slovák", which appeared in its November 20 issue. It was written by a Moravian of Slovak extraction.

"All who have a slight knowledge of Eastern Moravia, of the Vyskov Valley from Olmütz to Brno, see that there is great harmony between the Slovaks and the Moravians. This harmony is more than superficial, for the ties that link the two peoples to each other are strong because in character they are very similar. We are a deeply religious folk, and this divides us sharply from the Czechs. It is often said that the regions inhabited by the Slovaks and the Moravians are of a totally different character and that in consequence, the two peoples must also differ greatly. And there is some truth in this.

"But we are divided from the Czechs by fundamental characteristics, and do not want to move a finger to bridge the bottomless chasm that lies between them and us. We have no intention of reproaching the Czechs with their provocative behaviour towards us and the Slovaks or of casting in their teeth the fact that we were the Cinderellas of the Republic. We have forgotten all that. Nor do we plead with them. We do not plead because we are in a position to demand. And we demand that we should be given a chance to prove that we are capable of an independent national life. We do not want to waste our strength on party struggles. We wish to make use of it in the field of economics. Should we neglect to do this, we shall fail utterly in the sphere of foreign politics. Here everything is only partially solved. We are told that we do not want to work, but the truth is that the Czechs are not willing to make room for us near the fleshpots in the State institutions. The press owned by the Free Masons and the Jews has grown unbearably arrogant, and no one

dares to attempt to break its power. The newspapers opposed to Jewish and Free Mason interests that try to do so appear with whole pages blank. Labour camps are being established to provide the Czechs with a means of livelihood. Jewish and Social Democratic immigrants find work in them. While we are frequently obliged to work for a mere pittance, the men in the labour camps receive such good wages that they are able to buy up all chickens, ducks and geese in the neighbourhood, so that we cannot get poultry for love or money.

"Where is all this leading us? What are we waiting for? Moravians and Slovaks alike are groaning under this intolerable yoke.

"Let the slogan of independence ring out at last! Give us what is ours by right and allow us to be masters in our own country! We do not desire to sow dissension in this land, but we have had enough of humiliation and neglect. We Moravians want to live together with the Slovaks.

"It is the sixth week that *pourparlers* have been going on in Prague; but there is no trace of unity, unless there is unity in utter confusion, famine and destitution. We refuse to stand this any longer. We want to work and to build up a fairer and brighter future. This is our honest and at the same time inflexible determination. But to attain this end we must have a united programme of work and must labour for it with joint force. This is why we wish to join the Slovaks, to whom we are drawn by the ties of our glorious history, our ancient civilization, our fertile soil, our industrious and intelligent people, our beautiful national dress, our songs and our first-rate industries, coupled with a desire to live and an insatiable appetite for work.

"Only one thing more is necessary: unity must be established between the two peoples. A vital problem of this sort must not remain unsolved any longer. The last hour has struck for us to join forces with our Slovak brethren.

"And there is no power on earth that can prevent us uniting in that honest, though hard, labour with which we hope to ensure the future of our people, but especially of our children."

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We publish the above without any further comment as

proof that the Munich Agreement has not eliminated the hostility existing from the outset between the Slovaks and the Czechs. In our opinion the only way to resolve these differences would be to give the Slovaks full autonomy and let them decide their own future for themselves. In fact, when recently, led by the Slovak Minister, M. Durchansky, an enormous crowd in Pozsony feted Professor Tuka, the sorely tried leader of the Slovaks, the latter said: — "Today autonomy is not enough for the Slovak nation, for it is entitled to a sovereign, independent national existence." This statement was greeted with a storm of applause by the great crowd of people, foremost among whom was the Slovak Prime Minister, M. Tiso.

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