

834781

Slovak League of
America
Plea...
ADU 8906

PLEA

On behalf of the

SLOVAK PEOPLE

to the

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

and the

WORLD SECURITY ORGANIZATION

PRESENTED BY THE

SLOVAK LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Slovak League of America

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MSGR. F. J. DUBOSH

12608 MADISON AVENUE, LAKEWOOD 7, OHIO

April 25, 1945.

Dear Friend:

In view of the great amount of work and of study that you must make as a member of the historical San Francisco Conference, I regret to add to your burdens by my presentation to you of the enclosed plea. I am heartened to send you this plea, because I feel that you are deeply interested in the peace of the future world.



Slovak League of America

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MSGR. F. J. DUBOSH

12608 MADISON AVENUE, LAKEWOOD 7, OHIO



April 25, 1945.

Dear Friend:

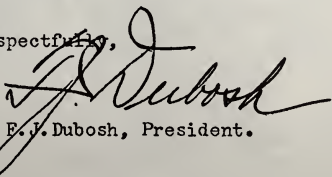
In view of the great amount of work and of study that you must make as a member of the historical San Francisco Conference, I regret to add to your burdens by my presentation to you of the enclosed plea. I am heartened to send you this plea, because I feel that you are deeply interested in the peace of the future world.

The enclosed plea concerns itself with the hopes and the prayers and the sacrifices of a small nation which for over ten centuries has been struggling to keep itself alive. Its annihilation has been attempted on many occasions, but its WILL to live has aided it to survive these mortal thrusts.

Please read about the heroic little nation, the Slovaks, whose case is herewith presented to you for consideration. If any nation has a right to liberty, to justice, to life itself, the Slovak nation also has such a right.

This plea is presented in the belief that you will hearken to it, because it is made by American citizens, who are of Slovak origin and who have for themselves and for their children enjoyed the blessings of true democracy and who wish these same blessings to accrue to their blood relatives living in Slovakia.

Yours respectfully,



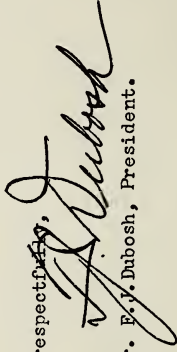
Msgr. F. J. Dubosh, President.

The enclosed plea concerns itself with the hopes and the prayers and the sacrifices of a small nation which for over ten centuries has been struggling to keep itself alive. Its annihilation has been attempted on many occasions, but its WILL to live has aided it to survive these mortal thrusts.

Please read about the heroic little nation, the Slovaks, whose case is herewith presented to you for consideration. If any nation has a right to liberty, to justice, to life itself, the Slovak nation also has such a right.

This plea is presented in the belief that you will hearken to it, because it is made by American citizens, who are of Slovak origin and who have for themselves and for their children enjoyed the blessings of true democracy and who wish these same blessings to accrue to their blood relatives living in Slovakia.

Yours respectfully,



Msgr. E. J. Dubosh, President.

PLEA
On behalf of the
SLOVAK PEOPLE
to the
UNITED STATES CONGRESS
and the
WORLD SECURITY ORGANIZATION

•

INTRODUCTION

This plea is made by American citizens whose sons and daughters now serve in the armed forces of the United States; who themselves have supported loyally and generously the cause of America and of democracy. It is a plea on behalf of a hapless, small nation in Europe unable to speak for itself and unrepresented by anyone of its own choosing in the World Security Organization. This plea is made by Americans on behalf of their ancestral nation in Europe which has always believed in American leadership and in the principles of democratic government. The plea, however, parallels and expresses the hopes and fears of probably every small nation of Europe. This plea is made on behalf of the Slovak nation.

WHO ARE THE SLOVAKS?

The Slovaks built the first Christian church in eastern Europe in what is now Slovakia. It was their ruler who brought Christianity to the Slav nations who today stand at the crossroads of civilization in Europe determined that German aggression shall not engulf them and, by the same token, that peace shall be part of the new order in Europe. The Slovaks have fought and are fighting valiantly to

throw off the yoke of Nazism. The uprising of the Slovaks in the face of almost certain doom at the hands of the strong Nazi forces occupying their country displayed a heroism which has won the admiration of the world.

For one thousand years the Slovaks fought against the aggression of the Germans. The Slovaks, in fact, were the first to attempt to stem the tide of German imperial expansion eastward in the eighth and ninth centuries. Under their ruler Svätopluk, they succeeded temporarily in rolling back German invasion and organized an eastern European state which temporarily held the invader. Eventually, like other eastern European countries after them, they became the victims of German ambition. The Germans under Arnulf, natural son of Charlemagne, with the aid of Hungarian (Magyar) invaders from Asia, defeated the struggling Slovaks in the tenth century.

RIGHT TO NATIONHOOD

In the course of the succeeding centuries the Slovaks played a constructive rôle in the affairs of eastern Europe contributing to its missionary, cultural and peace-time progress their proportionate share. This in spite of the fact that Slovakia was invaded successively by the Teutons from the north, the Tartars from the east, the Turks from the south and the Franks from the west. During all this time the Slovaks clung to a belief in democracy—a belief in the right to self-government. But in their willingness to cooperate with their neighbors in achieving such an ideal they repeatedly became the victims of the worst kind of chauvinism. First the Germans attempted to Germanize them; then the Magyars nearly succeeded in Magyarizing them; and now, the Czechs, by first making "Czechoslovaks" of them (for political reasons), are now attempting to Czechize the Slovaks, who have their own traditions, their own history, and their own culture.

It is not entirely a matter of chance that Slovakia and the Slovak people emerged—unhappily—in the present crisis as a separate nation. They have been a nation distinct from both the Hungarians and the Czechs for a thousand years. They possess an ancient history of

their own; they have a language which is neither Czech nor Czecho-Slovak but Slovak; they have also a literature which is distinctly their own.

Slovakia is larger in area than Switzerland, Holland, Belgium or Denmark; in population it is comparable to Norway, Lithuania, or Latvia and Estonia combined.

CZECH CHAUVINISM

The Slovaks and Czechs united their political fates in the last war and this act was confirmed on American soil on May 30, 1918, by an agreement, known historically as the "Pittsburgh Pact," executed by President Masaryk and leaders of the Czechs and Slovaks in America, a copy of which is attached.¹ This commitment was sealed with the blood and sacrifice of thousands of Slovaks, many of whom enlisted on American soil. America not only stood at the cradle of this new republic but was, in every sense, its foster mother. The support, financial and in fighting forces, which America and Americans of Slovak ancestry gave to this movement made Czecho-Slovakia possible. On American soil it was solemnly declared and agreed that it should be the union of two equal Slav nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks. In truth this never was a reality during the period of twenty intervening years following the first World War.

Instead, a highly centralized bureaucracy was created in the new republic in which Slovakia was treated like a Czech colonial province. Only those Slovaks were recognized who professed a belief in the complete unification of the two peoples, under which the Slovaks lost their identity. There were but two Slovaks of consequence in the pre-war government of Czecho-Slovakia: Milan Hodža, who died in Florida an exile from the government-in-exile, and Stephen Osusky, American-bred lawyer, who for twenty years held the important post of minister to France from Czecho-Slovakia. His illuminating commentary is attached hereto and speaks for itself.² Even these servants of Beneš rebelled against the injustices to the Slovaks. The red herring of "collaboration" with the Nazis

¹ See Appendix "A"

² See Appendix "B"

should not be permitted to be drawn by the Czecho-Slovak government-in-exile across the real issues in Slovakia.

Mr. Beneš, who invented the fiction of a "Czechoslovak" language and people after the peace conference in Paris, was the leader in this movement for assimilating the Slovaks, in spite of his statement and promise to the Paris Peace Conference that Czecho-Slovakia would be a federative state "on the Swiss model." His failure to carry out this pledge resulted in the estrangement of the vast majority of the Slovaks from the government of Czecho-Slovakia. Now the Slovaks, for a second time, have earned their right to nationhood by their uprising in the face of Nazi occupation and by the cooperation and assistance they have given to the Soviet Army in its fight against Hitler. In effect, they are upon a new threshold much as they were in 1918, in their relations to the Czechs. In view of the rapprochement between the Slovaks and the Soviet Union, Mr. Beneš is now confessing aloud and in public that Slovakia was unjustly treated in the old partnership and that a new partnership must be formed in which the Slovaks will be equals with the Czechs. In "Czechoslovak Policy for Victory and Peace," published by Mr. Beneš recently, he confessed (page 48):

"I myself believe that the decentralization of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia—to a degree that will be especially necessary in Slovakia—is a matter of course . . . There is no need for any dispute about that. The degree and form of this decentralization will be decided in a free and democratic spirit *by our people themselves, and this particularly applies to the Slovak people.*"

This apparently is but another promise similar to others which he has made to the Slovaks but has never kept. His actions belie his words. He has selected as the principal representative of the Slovaks in his new government, Vavro Šrobar, an unfailing servant and catspaw of the Beneš policy in Slovakia for the twenty years preceding 1939.

Surely, under these circumstances, the people of Slovakia should have the right to decide for themselves whether they wish to renew their partnership with the Czechs and, if so, the terms of such a new partnership. Particularly Beneš admits that the Slovaks were wronged and when his promise of a change is not being made in good faith, the majority of the Slovaks have lost faith in Mr. Beneš. As evidence of this and other reasons why the Slovak people should be given the right to make their own decision, we attach the opinion of the Slovak National Council in London, which speaks for itself. (See Appendix "C").

FUTURE PEACE IN EUROPE

Under all the circumstances, the just thing, the course which will most certainly insure future peace, is to permit the Slovak people to determine their own fate in a free election conducted by a commission appointed by the United Nations and not an election conducted by Mr. Beneš.

Leaders, in and out of Congress, in America who have had the time and patience to check behind the propaganda of the Beneš government of Czecho-Slovakia agree with what we here say.

In a letter from the Honorable Arthur Capper, United States Senator from Kansas, dated June 8, 1944, he said:

"Every nationality, no matter how small, has the inherent right to its own nationhood. If that principle is not carried out after this war, then the conflict has been in vain."

Senator Robert A. Taft in a letter recently stated:

"I agree entirely with your position and believe that the Slovaks should be permitted to set up an independent nation."

Senator David I. Walsh has expressed himself in even stronger language:

"Let me add that I am in full sympathy with your appeal for the Slovaks in Czecho-Slovakia. I am wholeheartedly in favor of translating into a reality the com-

mittment in the Atlantic Charter, namely that: 'Every nationality, no matter how small, has the inherent right to its own nationhood.'

Congressman Samuel A. Weiss in a letter recently stated:

"The principles of the Atlantic Charter should become an actuality that every nationality, no matter how small, should have the inherent right to its own nationhood. In so doing we will be sowing the seeds of peace and tranquility for generations to come . . . For centuries Slovaks have always maintained that they are a sovereign nation, and in my humble opinion, I believe they are entitled to separate recognition."

CONCLUSION

As American citizens interested in ending Europe's continual unrest and, to that extent at least, of bringing about lasting world peace we urge serious consideration for the settlement of the Czech-Slovak dispute.

With the Atlantic Charter and the conferences at Cairo, Teheran, Quebec, Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta, the principle that all nations, large and *small*, have a right to work out their own destiny, has been generally accepted.

The World Security Organization must succeed, and will succeed, if the small nations and peoples are recognized as an inherent part of the over-all picture, and their valid claims and individual problems are given consideration.

Bound by blood and heritage with the Slovaks of our ancestral land, imbued with a spirit of tolerance and democratic principles, having a knowledge of the past history of the Slovak people and their long struggle to establish their independence and their right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and freedom of religion with its sacred right to worship God in their own way, the Americans of Slovak birth or descent are hopeful and desirous of seeing that the Slovak people located in the center of war-torn Europe share in the benefits which shall accrue to mankind after the termination of this war.

This appeal on behalf of the Slovak people is respectfully submitted for the sincere and studied consideration of all those interested in the future peace of Europe and of the world.

We earnestly ask for this people the privilege of deciding whether they wish to be an independent nation or in the event they are part of a reconstituted Czecho-Slovakia, the privilege of deciding questions affecting their economic and their political status.

Česko-Slovenská Dohoda,

uzavrená v Pittsburghu, Pa., dňa 30. mája, 1918.
 "Predstavitelia slovenských a českých organizácií vo
 Spoj. Štátoch.

Slovenskej Ligy, Českého Národného Sdružení a Svätu Českých Katolíkov,

porokovali za prítomnosti predsedu Česko-Sloven-
 skej Národ. Rady, prof. Masaryka, o česko-slovenskej otázke a o našich
 požadovaných programových prejavoch a usniesli sa nasledovne:

"Schvaľujeme politický program usilujúci sa o Spojenie
 Čechov a Slovákov v samostatnom štáte i Českých Zemi a Slovenska

"Slovensko bude mať svoju vlastnú administratívu svoj
 snem a svoje súdy.

"Slovenčina bude úradným jazykom v škole, v úrade a vo
 verejnom živote vôbec.

"Česko-slovenský štát bude republikou, jeho Konštitúcia
 bude demokratická.

"Organizácia spolupráce Čechov a Slovákov vo Spoj.
 Štátoch bude podľa potreby a meniacej sa situácie, pri spoločnom
 dorozumení, prehlbená a upravená.

"Podrobné ustanovenia o zariadení česko-slovenského
 štátu ponechávajú sa oslobodeným Čechom a Slovákom a ich
 práveplatným predstaviteľom."

Albert Mamatey

Frank Kales, John J. Gausman, ml.,

Matias Sogalok

William Kellner, Jan. P. Kozak

Richard Respondek, Mungas

Josef Kucik, Jan. J. Hutnicak

Josef Hartman, S. S. S. S.

Anton G. Siska

T. J. Masaryk

Karel Berger, Honor Dostal

Fr. J. Ben. Budnik, Zdenek

Josef Dostal, V. J. Dostal

Jan. Dostal, Jan. Dostal

Jan. Dostal, Jan. Dostal

Jan. Dostal, Jan. Dostal

PITTSBURGH AGREEMENT OR "PACT"

•

"The representatives of Slovak and Czech organizations in the United States, the Slovak League, the Czech National Federation and the Czech Catholic Alliance, have discussed the Czecho-Slovak question and our previous manifestos as to a program, in the presence of the president of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, and it was agreed as follows:

We approve a political program to unite the Czechs and the Slovaks into an autonomous State comprising the Czech lands and Slovakia.

Slovakia shall have its own administration, its own parliament, and its own courts.

The Slovak language shall be the official language in schools, and in public life generally.

The Czecho-Slovak State shall be a republic; its constitution shall be democratic.

The organization for the cooperation of the Czechs and the Slovaks in the United States shall be broadened and adapted by mutual understanding, as necessity and changing conditions shall require.

Detailed regulations for the establishment of the Czecho-Slovak State are left to the liberated Czechs and Slovaks and their legal representatives."

Explanatory Note: The "president of the Czecho-Slovak National Council" at the time of the execution of the agreement was T. G. Masaryk. At the time of the signing of this copy of the agreement he was already proclaimed president of Czecho-Slovakia.

It will be noted that the agreement contemplates the consideration of two distinct peoples, the Czechs and the Slovaks, and two distinct countries "the Czech lands and Slovakia." It also promises a separate "administration" and a separate "parliament" for Slovakia.

None of these considerations or promises were kept after the republic was created by the Allies following World War I.

APPENDIX "B"

Letter of Dr. Osusky, Czecho-Slovakian Ambassador in Paris, to American Slovaks

London, Jan. 21, 1945.

Dear Fellow Slovaks:

The recent public statement of the last pre-Munich vice-president, Rudolph Bechyne, now a delegate of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, is a significant sign of the times, and added proof that verily "truth conquers" . . . as it always does in the end when men can be found to sacrifice themselves in her behalf!

Actually, the Czech politician who was the first chairman of Beneš' National Council (1940-1941) was forced to call a meeting outside of the National Council in order to satisfy his conscience, his nation and his country for the cause of truth and justice. This is further proof that the Czecho-Slovak "state institution" in London is neither democratic, nor republican, nor patriotic.

Democracy has one priceless virtue which it prizes above all its political concepts and institutions, namely, the right to disagree. Why? Because it has a system, or technique, of ascertaining the truth in its democratic processes. If one is in error, a free democratic discussion enables reason to operate and eventually arrive at the truth. Beneš and his government do not have faith in democracy because they do not believe in truth! Afraid of facts, they are; and hence they reject discussion. Truth stands on its own merits and even if it sometimes suffers hardships, it will prevail even without assistance from the government. Only falsehood must depend upon the support of the state.

Opposition to and prevention of discussion is treason to democracy. Without discussion democracy is dead.

Since the first moment of creation, a government that is not subject to public control decays and collapses. It is a direct characteristic of every undemocratic politician to avow that he serves the people while he directly, or indirectly, shows himself to be a man without faith in their judgment.

Fundamentally, fascism is the belief that the individual is the embodiment of the state, even if it adopts the label of democracy, while the principle that an individual is the personification of a nation is ordinarily known as nazism, even though it be labelled patriotism.

In a democracy, governments are instituted to guarantee the citizen definite, inviolable rights which they dare not overstep, or abolish. Since the authority of the government in a democracy is not absolute, as in an absolute monarchy, or in a totalitarian regime, when the government oversteps its boundaries, its acts and laws are not binding, and the citizen, whose inviolable rights have been invaded, or disregarded, is not obliged to obey such laws.

In a democracy, the government exercises its authority according to the Constitution, voted upon and approved by the elected representatives of the people, and it cannot be fundamentally changed without destroying the very foundation upon which it stands. It is not possible for a government to assert, on the one hand, that it is a constitutional government, and on the other, have no regard for the rules of the Constitution by changing them arbitrarily. A dictator does not respect a Constitution and he changes its rules arbitrarily.

Absolute monarchies, fascism, and nazism, force their citizens to be loyal to their country in contrast to a democracy which builds up faith and trust in its government by education, and by keeping its people informed of events and their meaning.

What is true of a citizen in the Czecho-Slovak democracy is even in a larger measure true of the Slovak

race within the Czecho-Slovak republic. Dr. E. Beneš did not accept the Slovaks as a nation. But as a democrat he should have known that though in a democracy the majority rules, it, nevertheless, has no right to oppress the minority. In a democracy the minority has rights which the majority must not, and dare not, trample in the dust. In other words, the majority must give the minority equal rights, must protect them equally by the same laws, and treat them equitably under the law of the land.

That Dr. Beneš did not respect this fundamental and elementary principle of democracy during his regime in the pre-Munich republic is proved indubitably by the fact that as President his government employed 10,702 Czechs and 126 Slovaks in the central offices in Prague. Let us say, that in the pre-Munich Republic, Dr. Beneš may have shifted the blame on Šramek's followers who were decidedly unfriendly to the Slovaks; yet, in exile today, he, alone is to blame because he is the government . . . he does everything himself, he is everything, and therefore, he is solely responsible for everything, even as Bechyne remarked. According to the official legal doctrine and practice of Dr. Beneš, he, himself, is the embodiment of his nation, and the Czecho-Slovak state, so that he is the state, and the source of its laws. The individuals in his government are consequently individually, collectively and personally responsible to Beneš. In the same way the members of the national council are individually and collectively responsible to Beneš.

How has Dr. Beneš, in whom are vested all the laws of the Czecho-Slovak republic according to the above view, treated the Slovaks while in exile? His "state institution" employs 1,180 officials, and less than 3% are Slovaks! In the army less than 1% of the officers are Slovaks. In the army and in the civil service, Dr. Beneš, both at home and in exile, did not employ Slovaks as a rule. Why? Either because he considers them incapable, or because he is determined to oppress them in the future. In either case, the Slovaks must oppose him with determination. They will not let themselves be considered inferior any longer, and they will not let him oppress, them any more in the future.

Dr. Beneš declaration of June 30, 1943, confirms the view that he has not changed, and that he plans to oppress the Slovaks as in the past because he denies the Slovaks their rights as a distinct nation with its own national characteristics.

Delegate Bechyne publicly stated at a meeting in Kingsway Hall in London that the Beneš government was the cause of a grave political crisis between the Slovaks and the Czechs, and that he endangered the existence of both races by his hostile political policy to the Slovak race. Bechyne declared that the Czecho-Slovak government in London said it had come to an understanding with the delegation of the Slovak National Council but no one knows on what basis. The members of the Council say that Beneš, alone, knows the details of the agreement. And Bechyne asks, just what kind of political and national agreement it is when only one person in the world knows what it is. We suspect that they agreed to disagree! That's the kind of agreement that was reached.

We do know, however, that Dr. Beneš sent a message containing 16 paragraphs to the Slovak delegation. In the first paragraph, we have already pointed out on another occasion, he recognized the Slovak government, but in the remaining 15 paragraphs he destroyed the political consequences of the commonly accepted principle of Slovakian nationhood which naturally flows from the first paragraph and rejected the others. The members of the Council, as the provisional government in exile, declare that there has been no formal agreement because they did not approve it, and because the Slovak delegation rejected all but the first paragraph of the so called Beneš agreement.

Slovak truth is blazing a trail to final victory, and it will triumph if only we stand uncompromising and constant in its defense.

With sincere gratitude,

I remain devotedly yours,

ŠTEFAN OSUSKÝ.

APPENDIX "C"

SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL

SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ RADA

•

7. Wilton Crescent, London, S. W. 1.

March, 1945.

Sir,

In connection with M. Edvard Beneš' departure for Slovakia the Slovak National Council in London sent, on March 14, a Memorandum to the Soviet, American, British and French Governments protesting against the setting up of a Czechoslovak Government in Slovakia and, at the same time suggesting to the Allied Governments the formation of an inter-Allied Military Government.

This is the text of the Slovak Memorandum, signed by M. Peter Pridavok, Chairman, and M. Karol Vychodil, Secretary, of the Slovak National Council:—

According to Press reports M. Edvard Beneš and some members of his so-called Czechoslovak Government have left for Slovakia, cleared of German troops, with the view of setting up there a Czechoslovak Government and of re-establishing the former Czechoslovak Republic.

Regarding itself a guardian of the rights of the Slovak nation to freedom and independence, and considering the fact that neither in the still German-occupied part of Slovakia, nor in the part cleared by the victorious Soviet Armies, but handed over to M. Beneš' administration, can our people express their will freely, the Slovak National Council in London raises its voice and solemnly protests against the setting up of a Czechoslovak Government on Slovak soil without the freely expressed consent of the Slovak people.

Czechoslovakia ceased to exist on March 14, 1939, when the Slovakian Parliament, with the full consent of

the Slovak people, decided for the separation from the Czech lands and for the establishment of a Slovak State. This State was recognised *de jure* by many countries throughout the world, including several Powers at present in the camp of the United Nations. During these six years it has been irrefutably proved that the Slovak Republic is not only capable of living independently, but also that no other state organism can secure for the Slovak people more national and cultural freedom as well as material well-being than the Slovak Republic.

It is only natural that every nation, however small, desires to live freely and independently. The Slovak nation cannot be expected to be an exception in this respect.

In the past the centralistic Czechoslovak Government in which M. Beneš' influence was decisive failed to fulfil every pledge given to the Slovaks; hence the Slovak people cannot trust any new pledges and promises given by the ex-President of erstwhile Czechoslovakia.

For the Slovak people M. Beneš and his so-called Czechoslovak Government are but foreign intruders who, in the manner of detestable marauders crawling behind the victorious Armies of the Soviet Allies, attempt to re-establish their hatred and bankrupt rule over the stricken body of our country and to subjugate our much-suffering people once more.

The Slovak people are quite content with their Slovak State, and with the exception of a few foreign agents they desire nothing but to preserve it also for the future with a government constituted by themselves on truly democratic lines. The reconstruction of Czechoslovakia without the freely expressed consent of the Slovak people would be a flagrant violation of the Atlantic Charter and all other solemn pledges given by the Allied statesmen to the small nations of Europe, who are the most suffering victims of this horrible war.

The Slovak National Council in London claims for the Slovak nation the same rights which the Allied Great Powers have solemnly promised to accord to all small nations after their liberation, i.e., the right of self-determi-

nation with all its implications. We have no desire to dominate anybody, but we equally refuse to be dominated and oppressed by any other nation. We therefore reject the idea of a renewed Czechoslovakia as detrimental not only to our Slovak nation, but also to the peaceful cohabitation of the peoples of Central Europe.

The Slovak National Council respectfully submits the following proposals for the settlement of the problems of Slovakia:—

1. In the Slovak territories freed from the Germans, inter-Allied Military Government, composed of Soviet, American, British and French representatives, should be established for joint control of the temporary civil and military administration. We should greatly welcome if, in civil matters, the co-operation of a representative of the Holy See could be secured.

2. The self-appointed "Slovak National Council," at present allegedly in Košice, should be immediately disbanded. As it accepts its orders from M. Beneš, a foreigner, it cannot be in any way whatsoever considered as representing the will of the Slovak people. Moreover, its President, Dr. Vavro Srobár, is one of the most notorious Czech agents of Slovak origin.

3. Conscription into the so-called Czechoslovak Army should immediately cease, and Slovak soldiers should be enabled to continue in the fight against the common enemy under Slovak flag.

4. Under the supervision of the inter-Allied Military Government free and unfettered elections should be prepared into the local government bodies and into the Slovak Parliament. Elections should not, however, be carried out hastily. The Slovak soldiers now abroad and in captivity, as well as Slovak workers in Germany and in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, should not be deprived of their votes into the Constituent Assembly. After such free elections had taken place and the democratically elected Parliament had amended the present Constitution and chosen the new head of State; furthermore, after a satisfactory degree of political and economic stability had been reached,

the inter-Allied Military Government should hand over all power to the legal Slovak Government appointed by the President of the Slovak Republic.

5. Only delegates appointed by the constitutional Slovak Government should be admitted as representatives of the people of Slovakia at the Peace Conference and any other international conferences.

6. All territorial disputes between Slovakia and neighbouring countries (Austria, Carpatho-Ruthenia, the Czech lands, Hungary and Poland) should be settled at the Peace Conference to the greatest possible satisfaction of all countries concerned. The same goes also for the future mutual relationship between these countries.

7. All incisive reforms regarding the social and economic structure of the country should be left to the newly-elected constitutional representatives of the Slovak people.

8. Punishing of war criminals should be considered a matter for Slovak Courts of Justice. The punishment of persons deserving it should be carried out only after the passions provoked by the war have died down.

9. No foreigners—with the exception of the inter-Allied Military Government—should be permitted to interfere with Slovak politics.

10. Diplomatic relations with Slovakia should be re-established by those Allied Powers which had, prior to the War, recognised Slovakia, and entered into by other nations as soon as possible.

The Slovak National Council trusts that these suggestions, being in full accordance with the proclaimed principles of policy of the Great Allied Powers, will find due consideration by His Majesty's Government.

London, 14th March, 1945.

SLOVAK LEAGUE OF AMERICA

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

FEDERATION OF SLOVAK NEWSWRITERS

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

FIRST SLOVAK WREATH OF THE FREE EAGLE

LADIES FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

LADIES PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK UNION

PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK UNION

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

