



The Rise and Fall of Miroslav Kvítek

THE FAMILY DRAMA OF A COMMUNIST STALWART

PAVEL ŽÁČEK

For quite logical reasons, the communist totalitarian regime tried to isolate completely both its enemies and members of its own repressive organisations, who were not allowed to meet political opponents, holders of foreign visas and criminals without permission. The regime regarded all attempts at breaching this barrier very negatively and the response of the state and party authorities to such efforts was often aggressive and exaggerated. The case of Miroslav Kvítek, a member of the political police who participated in targeting “free youth” and whose son signed Charter 77, was no exception.

Joining the Ministry of the Interior

Sergeant Miroslav Kvítek of Military Unit 9687 in Prague applied for a position with the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior on 18 February 1957.¹ His social origins were excellent: his father František Kvítek worked as a plant guardsman with the Svoboda a Hynais coal supply firm (later known as Pražské uhelné sklady) and his stepmother Marie (née Myslivečková) worked with the same firm as a coal loader. In addition, both parents joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČ) in 1945. Having left eight-year elementary school, Miroslav Kvítek took up vocational training at the Autodružstvo co-operative in September 1948, before in October 1952 switching to Motorlet in Prague's Jinonice district as a metal polisher.² While at vocational school in the city's Hloubětín district, he joined the Czechoslovak Youth Union (ČSM). *I later switched to the 1st Georgi Dimitrov Local Group in Prague 16, where I was actively involved until*

*the abolition of the local organisations in 1952.*³

Kvítek was drafted by the regional directorate having served his military service, which he started in June 1953, first with the 21st Air Battalion in Hradec Králové, and then from November 1955 as a non-compressor mechanic of the Czechoslovak People's Army with the 31st Air Battalion in Prague's Kbely district. In the meantime, he married Zdenka Bízová, his second wife.⁴ *I have no relation to religion. I have not exited the church legally yet. I am in the Czechoslovak church, he succinctly informed personnel officials at the regional directorate of the Ministry of the Interior in Prague.*⁵

Capt. Oldřich Hlavnička, the head of the 3rd Department of the 2nd Section of the 7th Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior (MV), noted during the recruitment process that a report on Miroslav Kvítek had been written in May 1954 due to suspicion of anti-state activity.⁶ The cadre management section of the Regional Directorate of the MV Prague perused the

document, in which the members of the Surveillance Directorate stated that, as a result of his unsatisfactory family situation, Kvítek had made his living in any way [...] but properly. Therefore, he was to be brought to the Public Security (VB, police) and put to work as a miner. Soon after that he reportedly returned to an idle way of life and then got married for the first time in December 1952, but the marriage failed. *He was not organised in any political party or a mass organisation. [...] Politically he has not taken a side publicly, as a result of which it is difficult to determine his real opinion and position on the people's democratic system...*⁷

Sgt. Maj. Bohuslav Janoušek visited the Investigation Directorate of the MV in the latter half of 1957 to obtain information on the course of the investigation concerning a group of young men led by Pavel Bösser who, according to investigators, were involved in the illegal activities of Junák (a banned boy scouts organisation). Kvítek was said to be a member of the group, but since he was not involved in any criminal

1 Security Services Archive (hereinafter only ABS), personal files; personal file of Miroslav Kvítek, born on 2 Feb 1933, archival number (hereinafter only a. č.) 2910/33. Job application dated 18 Feb 1957.

2 Ibid., Special Questionnaire, 15 Feb 1957.

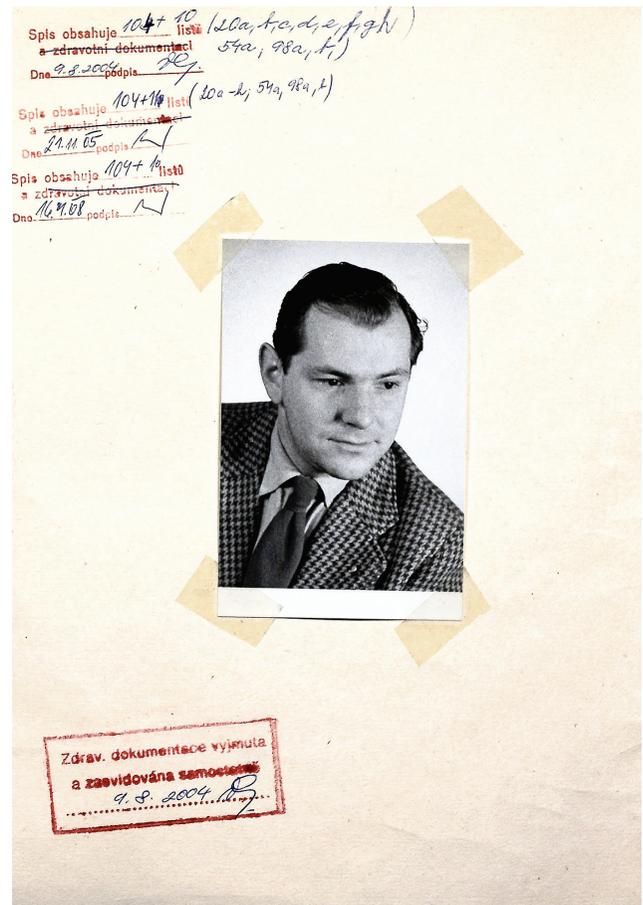
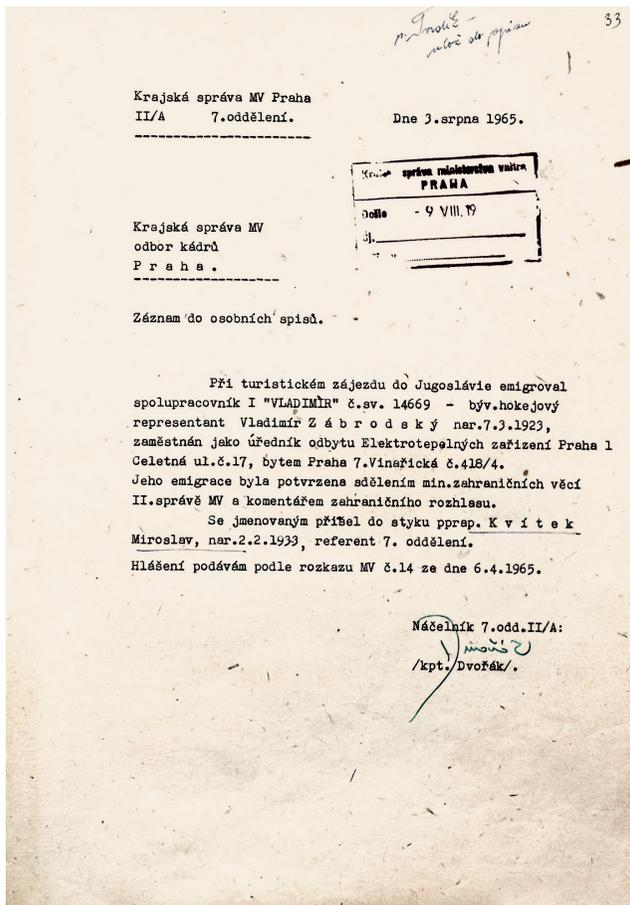
3 Ibid., CV, 18 Feb 1957.

4 Zdenka Kvítková (b. 29 Oct 1937), née. Bízová, came from the farmers family of František and Zdenka Bíza. The *ustanovka* document prepared prior to her husband joining the Prague Regional Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior said: *She is known to have worked as a cook at the U Holubů restaurant in Smíchov while still single [...] She now works as an assistant at the ČSAD Smíchov bus station, as well as working as the janitor in the house of her residence. She is said to be a quiet and shy young woman who does not meet or talk to people at her place of residence too much.* Ibid., *Ustanovka* dated 8 Mar 1957, Ref. A/6-003401/20-57. She became a candidate for KSČ membership on 28 Nov 1957 and a member on 22 Apr 1959. As of 15 Sep 1959, she joined the RD MV as a guard for Correctional Facility No. 2 in Prague (Pankrác), and on 1 Sep 1963 she was relocated to Correctional Facility 1 in Prague (Ruzyně). After the inception of the Correctional Facilities Corps (1 Aug 1965), she was transferred, as part of it, to the Ministry of Justice sector on 1 Jan 1969.

5 Ibid., Special Questionnaire, 15 Feb 1957.

6 Ibid., *Ustanovka* of 8 Mar 1957, Ref. A/6-003401/20-57.

7 Ibid., copy of *Ustanovka* of 23 Mar 1954, Ref. A/6-042/203-54, made by Sgt. Major B. Janoušek, 19 Aug 1957.



After the informer emigrated, his former controlling officer could be jeopardized.
Source: Security Services Archive

Miroslav Kvítek in the 1960s.
Photo: Security Services Archive

activity, no criminal proceedings were instituted against him. Still, the official in charge of cadre policy found the relevant investigation files in the operative archive and studied them. Concerning applicant Miroslav Kvítek, the files were investigated, specifically the testimony of witness Jeroným Březina [...] that he met Kvítek in 1952 and they took the pistol of his father who was a militia member and shot 25 rounds near the airfield outside Točná. When Kvítek's father learned of this, he forbade his son from maintaining any contact with said Březina, who also confirms in the files that he has had no further contact with Kvítek. Along the same lines, Bösser said in his deposition that they wanted to make him a member of the group, but that had not happened due to his lack of interest, as he never came to any meetings.⁸ By contrast, the Prague 16 local section of the VB confirmed on the basis of an investigation at Kvítek's place of

residence that he has a good reputation and is not known to lean towards the Western style of life or towards acting like a hood.⁹ What was decisive was probably the opinion of the 31st battalion's KSČ organisation and the ČSM leadership: His political maturity is average. His relation to the people's democratic regime is completely positive. [...] His temper can be impulsive; otherwise he is collectively minded and fair [...] with a good military demeanour and, above all, work morale. If managed properly, he is guaranteed to fulfil his tasks.¹⁰ Sgt. Maj. Janoušek finally proposed to recruit him for the guards department of the Correctional Facilities Section of the Prague Regional Directorate of the MV: He spent a large part of his leisure time on parachuting training organised by Svazarm. No specific findings concerning his political opinions were obtained, as he did not show any signs in

this respect. The military unit's opinion indicates that the person is committed to the people's democratic system. He fulfils his tasks scrupulously in his position and his work morale is good.¹¹ On 1 November 1957, Senior Sergeant Kvítek took the oath of the National Security Corps (SNB), promising among other things to unconditionally carry out his duties and to follow the orders of his commanders and superiors. I swear to be true and dedicated to the Czechoslovak Republic, its people, the people's democratic regime and laws, the president and the government to my last breath. [...] Should I break the oath, let a severe punishment, general hatred and the contempt of the working people afflict me.¹² He became a candidate for membership of the KSČ on 6 October 1958. The first evaluation of guardsman Kvítek took place in mid-October 1959. Senior Guard Officer Lt. Josef Bursík

8 Ibid., Investigation Report. Re: Kvítek, Miroslav, suspicion of anti-state activity, 21 Aug 1957.
9 Ibid., Investigation of SNB candidate, Kvítek, Miroslav, 13 Mar 1957, 1st Lt. Černý.
10 Ibid., Evaluation of UO KSČ and ČSM, Military Unit 9687, 8 Aug 1957.
11 Ibid., Proposal of approval of admission to MV service, 23 Aug 1957.
12 Ibid., SNB Officer Service Oath, 1 Nov 1957.

found his service to be completely conscientious and flawless. *He is duly alert and vigilant in any position. He always obeys the commands of his superiors without any reservations.*¹³ On 1 April 1960 Sgt. Maj. Kvítek was confirmed as guard platoon guardsman, and on 5 September 1960 he was called for the 11th course of the three-month State Security elementary school at Slapy.

Secret police officer

A fresh Communist Party member, Kvítek became an officer of the Prague 3 District Section of the Ministry of Interior on 22 December 1960 and was assigned to the field of education and culture within the 3rd Department (political counterintelligence). In May 1961, he was not yet working on an operative file or running any collaborators. His job was to learn. *In this respect, he appears to be diligent and fulfils his assignments. His primary focus is obtaining agents for the objects that he is in charge of, and he has been successful since he has three tips for collaborators at this point. [...]. Comrade Kvítek has pledged his personal commitment to serving the movement through high-quality work, which will certainly help him to improve his professional qualifications and gain insight into operative work.* The evaluation prepared by the head of the district division, Capt. Eduard Dluhoš, was approved by the head of the Prague Regional Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Lt. Col. Miroslav Mašek.¹⁴ Three years later, Capt. Dluhoš described Kvítek as being diligent but lacking operative experience. In 1962 he opened an investigation into a five-member group of former National Socialist Youth members on the grounds of subversion, which he subsequently assigned to the investigations section. He completed two projects involving preventive/educational measures the following year. By December 1963 he was running seven fixed collaborators of the State Security. His evaluation also said: *In terms of political work, Comrade Kvítek holds the position of party group agitator and he is currently the head of the party group. Under the*

*Year of Party Education project, he has been studying international relations on his own. He is popular in his collective. As far as his family life is concerned, it is respectable; he is married, has two children and takes care of them.*¹⁵

As part of the restructuring of the counterintelligence units of the Prague Regional Directorate of the MV, Warrant Officer Kvítek was relocated to the internal intelligence unit of Section II/A (a counterintelligence unit for the city: also known as II/M), 6th Department, Youth, as of 1 February 1964. On 18 May, he applied for re-assignment to the Correctional Facilities Section for family reasons, citing a difficult family situation relating to his wife's shifts at Correctional Facilities Unit 1 in Ruzyně.¹⁶ The 6th Department did not recommend his application for approval. *Comrade Kvítek works at the youth section and carries out his duties well.* Based on a note made by senior cadre section official Capt. Václav Tvrđík, he withdrew his application after an interview.¹⁷

On 1 December 1964 Officer Kvítek was relocated to the 7th Department of Section II/A, and put in charge of physical education and sports. His responsibility included the Slavia, Bohemians, Slavoj Vyšehrad, Slavia Vysoké školy, Svazarm physical education organisations, and the Physical Education and Sport Institute (ITVS). He ran eight collaborators of average qualities assigned to those organisations and provided "protection" in connection with 24 instances of travel abroad. According to the department head, Capt. Jiří Dvořák, he fulfilled his assignments: *He recruited 6 good confidants for systematic protection of trips abroad, 3 other confidants for specified organisations and two collaboration candidates with a promise of work in international associations. He also obtained a conspiracy flat and covered [in terms of agents] the SLAVIA fans and friends club.*

WO Kvítek was tasked with building an extensive network of confidants – primarily among sports organisation officials – in basketball, swimming, canoe-

ing and volleyball sections. His task was also to find two candidates as agents to work at the Svazarm car repair schools with a view to targeting foreign visa holders.¹⁸ *Although the comrade does not have the qualification, he is intelligent, smart, and civil in demeanour, which shows in his agent management and recruitment.* He also gradually improved his cadre profile: *Politically, he is socially aware and has less theoretical knowledge, which is why I recommend that he study at the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism. A member of the local KSČ organisation's committee, he is active in Svazarm in Prague 3.* Col. Bohumil Říha, the head of the Prague Regional Directorate of the MV, approved the evaluation.¹⁹

Until the spring of 1968 the HQ of the StB's Prague Directorate insisted that the 7th Department of Section II/A roll out a qualified agent network that would be able to control the various "hostile groupings" allegedly trying to misuse university students' activities to their own ends. Another task was to uncover channels whereby ideological subversion has infiltrated from abroad. *Hostile elements* inspiring students to anti-party and anti-socialist acts were to be uncovered among university teachers and their subversive activities prevented. The agent-informer network, confidants and official contacts were to be used to disrupt various anti-party and anti-socialist tendencies imported to the student environment – as the State Security maintained – by both internal and external enemies. Last but not least, foreign students were to be recruited as agents capable of detecting provocateurs and persons suspect of contact with hostile intelligence services and the enemy's foreign institutions.²⁰

Occupation: Turning point

CWO Kvítek was strongly against the reforms during the Prague Spring of 1968 and opposed the idea of weakening the Communist Party's position in Czechoslovak society. A turning point in his career occurred with the occupation by the armies of five Warsaw Pact

13 Ibid., Proposal for promotion to senior sergeant rank, 19 Oct 1959.

14 Ibid., Service evaluation, 15 May 1961.

15 Ibid., Proposal for "For Service to the Country" medal, 9 Dec 1963.

16 Ibid., Application of relocation within MV, 18 May 1964.

17 Ibid., Miroslav Kvítek's application for relocation – response, 18 May 1964.

18 Ibid., Evaluation, 9 June 1965.

19 Ibid., Service evaluation for proposal for promotion to the WO rank, 19 Jul 1965.

20 ABS, f. Secretariat of Deputy Minister of the Interior Col. Jaroslav Klíma (A 7), inventory unit (hereinafter only inv. jed.) 299, Plan of Work for StB KS-SNB Forces in Prague for 1968, 19 Dec 1967, Ref. OS-0033/M-68.

countries, as he and other StB members led by the deputy head of the Prague Regional Directorate of the SNB, Lt. Col. Bohumír Molnár, played a role in supporting the occupation forces after midnight of 20 August 1968. It was apparently with regard to his correctional facilities past that he and the senior officer of the 5th Department of Section II/A, Maj. Jan Sokol, were chosen to guard the isolation room on the premises of the Intelligence Technology Section on the 5th floor at Bartolomějská St. 7, where up to 20 reform-friendly officers supporting Minister of the Interior Josef Pavel were to be interned.

The first person arrested was Grade II technician of Section VI CWO Ivan Železnov, whom the head of the Intelligence Technology Section, Lt. Col. Jindřich Beneš, handed over to Maj. Sokol and CWO Kvítek, both wearing field uniforms and carrying sub-machine guns, at 1:45 AM, saying: *“Here is the first one.”* Both guards repeatedly asked the interned officer to hand in his firearms and pocket knife. Maj. Sokol said he would feel silly conducting a personal search and preferred to “trust” Železnov, saying that opposition would not help him. CWO Železnov noticed that the window in the internment room had been fitted with a bar, the door handle replaced with a knob, and the telephone and all other equipment removed. *I sat there alone (that is, with the guards). They loaded their gun magazines with live cartridges while I rested my head on the table.*

Senior Officer of 1st Department, Section II/A and a member of the unit committee of KSČ (Prague City) Maj. Jaroslav Mejstřík, whose 6.35 mm pistol was taken from him in a personal search, arrived at work at about 4:45 AM and was taken to the top floor by the guard. Maj. Mejstřík came to the room where CWO Železnov had been present with Maj. Sokol and CWO Kvítek in field uniforms. *They took my pocket knife and when I asked them why I was interned, they answered that the leaders would talk to me in the morning.* Before 6 AM, the building’s security guards wanted to bring Senior Officer of the 4th Department, Section II/A, Capt. Vítězslav Horák and Second Lieutenant Petr Beran of the 1st Department to the internment room. The

deputy head of Section II/A Maj. Václav Pechek told them that, due to an order from Lt. Col. Molnár – *and reportedly also the new minister, Comrade Šalgovič* – they should wait on the 5th floor. *Having reached the 5th floor, we were taken to a room at right at the end of the corridor where Comrades Mejstřík and Železnov were at the time. Both were guarded by the fully armed Comrades Sokol and Kvítek.* 2nd Lt. Beran handed in his pistol at their request.

Officer of the 1st Department, Section II/A 2nd Lt. Vladislav Lapáček was placed in isolation at about 6:45 AM. He handed in his pistol, which Maj. Sokol proceeded to lock in the table drawer together with other firearms. *Comrades Kvítek and Sokol answered all questions as to the reasons why they did what they did, to the effect that this was Comrade Molnár’s order, and that we had to wait for his further instructions in the room. [...] We were not allowed to leave the room freely, so all we heard was occasional firing in the streets, we had no other information on the developments and we were completely isolated.* He said that both guards treated the interned people with civility, but that they perceived their position and outlook as *hopeless to disastrous.*

Following a verbal spat, Senior Officer of the 6th Department, Section II/A Lt. Jiří Kavčiak also ended up in the isolation room, after his department colleague Capt. Stanislav Podrazský had instructed him *not to do anything silly* while he had his hand on the holster of his pistol. When asked for an explanation, he said: *“You know, we don’t trust you or count on you in the event of action.”* He was taken to the fifth floor with the comment: *“Here’s another one for you.”* According to Kavčiak, CWO Kvítek and Maj. Sokol treated them correctly *given their position.* However, they were unable to offer any explanation to Kavčiak.

After 8 AM, senior official of the 1st Department, Section II/A First Lt. Jiří Vajs and 12th Department Officer Capt. Jaroslav Slovák joined those interned, with the latter understanding, based on the remarks he had heard, that he had been taken to the fifth floor *as someone interned on political grounds*, without any further specification. An absurd conversation between Vajs and Kvítek fol-

lowed, Vajs having known Kvítek from his previous position at the MV District Department in Prague 3. *I also had an opportunity to meet his family and I photographed his two children out of friendship. Since the last restructuring, we had been separated due to operative work, so the next time we met in person was in the room where I was interned.* Guardsman Kvítek reportedly *jokingly* promised Vajs that, once he is [in prison] *some-where in Ruzyňě or Pankrác*, he will have his warden wife bring him *larger food portions.*

Maj. Sokol brought in the deputy head of Section II/A Lt. Col. Josef Erben and chairman of the unit KSČ committee (Prague City) Maj. Karel Peška in the morning – i.e. after the political failure of the occupation. A heated argument ensued, with the party official defending the internment, citing arguments such as that *they had done “things behind the Party’s back” that irritated many people.* Lt. Col. Erben stated that he recognised the sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the government and the law, but he did not respond to a request that he call a state attorney or end the internment. Responding to a request that a party organ be summoned, Maj. Peška says: *Why? What for? This is a service matter, not a political one.* When 2nd Lt. Lapáček asked directly whether Maj. Peška *approved of the invasion of the armies to the CSSR*, Peška was initially unable to answer and then he said that he *would not answer questions like this.*

Lt. Col. Erben and Maj. Peška arrived again between 10 and 11, the interned officers estimated, and said that with Lt. Col. Molnár’s approval, they would be released from internment and released. The guardsmen were instructed to hand them back their personal belongings. Prior to letting the interned officers out of the building, Lt. Col. Erben insisted that none of them make any calls or report anything anywhere – simply, that they act reasonably.²¹ The positions of pro-soviet StB members strengthened again during the autumn of 1968. The head of the 7th Department, Section II/A of the Regional SNB Directorate Maj. Dvořák proposed the awarding of the Homeland Service Medal to CWO Kvítek in early 1969. *Comrade Kvítek [...] has always fulfilled*

21 For quotations in this sub-chapter, refer to ŽÁČEK, Pavel: *Odvracená tvář pražského jara. Státní bezpečnost v Praze a srpen 1968 (The Other Side of the Prague Spring. The State Security in Prague and August 1968)*. Svět křidel, Cheb 2010, pp. 116–127.

his assignments with exemplary responsibility, in particular when taking extraordinary measures and actions. In such cases, he disregarded his workload and time restrictions. He carried out his assignments independently and achieved good results in assigned cases. [...] Politically, he is class-conscious and defends KSC policy always and under all circumstances. The head of the Regional Directorate Lt. Col. František Němec approved the recommendation of the committee of the Regional SNB Directorate in Prague, which was led by Deputy Head for State Security and Head of Section II/A Lt. Col. Miroslav Šmakal.²²

Career advancement

As the Prague Regional Directorate of the SNB underwent restructuring, CWO Kvítek became an official of the 3rd Department, 6th Section of the State Security as of 15 April 1969. The head of the Department Maj. Václav Marek stated in the proposal for his extraordinary promotion that Kvítek was very responsible and diligent. *He tries hard to manage his assignments, and this is why he achieves good results in operative work, as well as in enlisting secret collaborators. He has a very good operative knowledge of the state security aspects of the area he has been tasked with. His work morale is very good and he approaches his assignments responsibly outside of his working hours as well. His demeanour is disciplined and serious. This shows in the collective at the workplace, as well as when dealing with people as part of work on operative tasks and in his contact with the informer network.*

Kvítek's political growth was also confirmed by his various party positions, including membership of the committee of the primary KSC organisation. He demonstrated his political maturity in 1968 particularly, when he firmly held the position of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. He showed this openly in many discussions both before and after August 1968. He condemned hostile tendencies and actions aimed against the KSC. He openly promoted friendship with the USSR. Hence, he never doubted the necessity of the allied armies' coming to Czechoslovakia and considered this to be the right

Záznam o kázeňských odměnách a trestech

Příjmení a jméno: Kvítek Miroslav data nar. 2.2.1933
 hodnost (tužkou) funkce (tužkou)

A. Odměny

Za co	Druh odměny podle KR	Kým a kdy udělena - číslo KR	Poznámka
Vyslovena	Pochvala	KRNKSMV Praha č.23/60.	
Za iniciativní a důsl.práci	400.- Kčs	R Z N KS SNB č. 143/69	
Za aktivní a iniciativní plnění služ.úkolů	300 Kčs	R N HSK FAV č. 92/13.12.1973	973
Za příkladné a obětavé plnění služebních úkolů	1.000 Kčs	R N HSK FAV č. 45/3.5.1974	74
Za dobré pracovní výsledky a zdárné zakončení akce VLK	1.500,- Kčs	R N X.SFMV č. 5/74	
Za dlouholetou obětavou službu - 30 let vzniku SNB	knihy s věnov.	R N X.SFMV č. 11/8.4.1975	
Za 20 let služby v MV	2.000,- Kčs	R N X.SFMV č. 14/21.4.1975	
Za iniciativní plnění úkolů v realizaci akce PLASTIC	1.000,- Kčs	RN 3.odboru X.SFMV č.2/24.6.1975	
Za obětavé a iniciativní plnění úkolů spojených se zajištěním ČSS 1975	1.500,- Kčs	RN 3.odboru X.SFMV č.3/30.6.1975	
Za aktivní agenturně operativní činnost na akcích "JESKY-NE", "ROY", a "SKAUT".	2.000,- Kčs	RNX.SF MV č.13/14.4.1976	
V průběhu MBO u příležitosti voleb do zastupitelstev orgánů se jmenování podíleli na iniciativním plnění úkolů ve svěřených prob ematikách	1.200,- Kčs	RN 3.odboru X.SFMV č.4/10.11.1976	
Za dosahování dobrých pracovních výsledků v rozprac. akcích EXOT a ERB	1.200,- Kčs	RNX.SFMV č. 16/8. 4.1977	
Za obětavé a iniciativní plnění služ. úkolů	1.200,- Kčs	R N 3.odb.X.SFMV č. 2/7.9.1977	

MV č. skl. 70

Rewards and praise of the State Security officer Miroslav Kvítek.

Source: Security Services Archive

solution, given the situation that developed after January 1968. He voiced his opinions and defended the actions of the Soviet Union in this sense. As a result, he fulfilled all assignments during the extraordinary measures after August 1968 in a disciplined manner. [...] His class and political convictions, which he demonstrated during the critical period in 1968, provides full assurance that he will continue to be an uncompromising defender of the Party's political line in the field of state security. Even though he did not meet the qualification requirements for an officer of the SNB,

he was proposed for promotion to the rank of lieutenant on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Red Army, and promoted to that rank on 1 May 1970, following the recommendation of the head of the Regional Directorate Lt. Col. Němec.²³

Based on an arrangement between the top officials of the 2nd Department of the Main Counterintelligence Directorate and the Prague State Security Directorate, senior official Lt. Kvítek was relocated to the 5th Department of the 2nd Section of the 2nd Directorate of the

²² ABS, f. personal files; personal file of Miroslav Kvítek, born on 2 Feb 1933, a. č. 2910/33. Proposal for the medal "For Service to the Country", 21 Jan 1969.
²³ Ibid., Service evaluation for the proposal of extraordinary promotion to the rank of lieutenant for the period from 1 January 1968 to 3 March 1970.



Zdenka Kvítková became the correctional facilities guard in Prague in 1959.
Photo: Security Services Archive



Daughter Miroslava Kvítková joined the Passports and Visas Directorate of the Federal Ministry of the Interior in 1977.
Photo: Security Services Archive

FMV (Federal Interior Ministry, illegal written materials), replacing 1st Lt. Jiří Milis, who joined the 2nd Department of the 7th Section of the Prague S-StB Directorate as a handwriting analyst.²⁴ In an addendum to a questionnaire that every member of the SNB had to hand in at the beginning of the 1970s, Lt. Kvítek expressed his political credo not only in regard the crisis period of 1968 to 1969, but with regard to the Soviet Union in particular. *I took this political position at my former workplace during 1968 when the then political situation was evaluated as part of various discussions. This also entailed a difference of opinion. In August 1968 during the armies' arrival I carried out my service assignments following from the political situation. I personally established contact with Soviet units temporarily stationed at various places in Prague. The contact lasted until their departure. As far as my political opinions are concerned, I did not keep them secret. Debating with citizens in my place of residence, I explained the situation and defended the necessity of the armies' arrival. Other comrades from my former workplace and I participated in distributing "ZPRÁVY" ("NEWS") to quite a broad range of the public. My wife, also a Party member, participated in similar activities connected with the*

*distribution of ZPRÁVY at her workplace in Ruzyně. Last but not least, he said that those interned on 21 August 1968 had filed a criminal report against him with the High Military Prosecution Authority on the grounds of breach of socialist law. Since no proceedings have been instituted against me or any other comrades to date, I understand that the case was closed as unlawful.*²⁵ The first assessment of Lt. Kvítek in his position at the State Security headquarters of August 1972 rated his political profile highly: *His class and political awareness gives full assurance that he will continue defending Party policy uncompromisingly. [...] He currently studies at the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism and has received Very Good ratings for the subjects Marxist Philosophy and KSČ History. In addition, the head of the 5th Department of the 2nd Section Maj. Jaroslav Jareš noted that, over time, senior officer Kvítek had become so familiar with the subject of illegal written materials that he was able to take over the management of activities of selected officers of the State Security directorates in Hradec Králové, České Budějovice, Brno and Ústí nad Labem, which had posted the highest numbers of uncovered cases in 1971. Aside from the assignments cited, he records all internal*

and international written materials and works on the EKONOM project independently. Since he is a young comrade in terms of both age and years served and can be expected to focus on these subjects in the future as well, he was given multiple assignments so that he could familiarise himself with the matter in its full breadth. His working morale was reportedly very good, as he approached his assignments responsibly. He is disciplined and serious in demeanour, which shows in the collective at his workplace, as well as in dealings with people as part of fulfilling his operative tasks. [...] He is of a friendly character, with a sense of duty. He is popular in his collective for his merry and witty manner. The 1st deputy of the head of the 2nd Directorate of the FMV, General Maj. Bohumír Molnár, approved the evaluation on 19 January 1973.²⁶ On 15 April 1973, Lt. Kvítek was relocated to the 4th Department of the 2nd Section and then, on 1 November 1973, reassigned to the 3rd Department of the 1st Section of the Main Counter-intelligence Directorate of the FMV (in charge of young people). Towards the end of June 1974, he passed the required examination and completed his four-year studies at the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism of the Prague-East District Committee

24 Ibid., LT Kvítek, Miroslav - proposal for lasting relocation to the 2nd Dept., 2nd Directorate of the FMV, 18 Jun 1971.

25 In the addendum, he wrote, among other information, that he was a member of the KSČ, Union of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship, and Svazarm, and also the Left Front from 1968 to 1970. Ibid., Addendum to MV questionnaire, 25 Jan 1972.

26 Ibid., Service evaluation of SNB officer M. Kvítek, 24 Aug 1972.

of the KSČ.²⁷ Following the 1 July 1974 restructuring of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the formation of the Counterintelligence Directorate for Combating the Internal Enemy (the 10th Directorate of the FMV), he became a senior official of the 2nd Department of the 3rd Section led by Col. František Herein, and continued focusing on matters associated with young people and illegal youth organisations.²⁸

His evaluation of March 1975 lauded his *class and political convictions*, referring to the crisis period, and anticipated that he would certainly *continue to be an uncompromising defender of the political line* of the Communist Party in terms of the State Security. *He openly and courageously criticised and condemned the activity of Minister Pavel, monitored the moves of the right wing and uncovered intentions aimed against the Party. [...] Following the crisis period, he worked on various audit committees, thus participating in the purging of the SNB of right-wing opportunists.* Having graduated from the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism, he became a member of the committee of the 3rd Basic Unit of the KSČ.

Lt. Kvítek achieved good results in working with young people from the beginning. In 1974, he completed the project “Vlk”²⁹ applying a *preventive/destructive measure* and was working on projects “Skaut”³⁰ and “Jeskyně”.³¹ He had also set his sights on several candidates for secret collaboration, expecting to exceed the planned number of secret collaborators. *His work morale, relationship to his assignments, political assessment of the operative situation, and personal traits are of a high*

quality, combining to serve as a model for the other members of the 2nd Department.

Overall, Kvítek was rated “very good”. Even though he did not meet the requirement for secondary education, the head of the 2nd Department of the 3rd Section Maj. Miroslav Lagron proposed to promote him to the rank of first lieutenant on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia. Following a discussion of the committee of the 3rd basic unit of the KSČ, the head of the 10th Directorate of the FMV Col. Vladimír Stárek approved the evaluation.³² Senior officer Kvítek was named first lieutenant on 1 May 1975.

On 19 January 1979, 1st Lt. Kvítek signed the compulsory representation concerning his private contacts, confirming that he did not maintain *direct or indirect private contact with [...] active opponents of the socialist social and state regime, the policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and enemies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other allied socialist countries.* He also stated that he was aware of his duty to *promptly inform his immediate superior in writing* in the event any of the *mentioned contact* taking place on his part, or if he found out that any of his closest relatives sharing his household had any *such contact*.³³

According to the head of the 2nd Department Capt. Václav Kubíček and Head of the 3rd Section of the 10th Directorate of the FMV Col. Václav Šubrt, 1st Lt. Kvítek had worked his way up to become one of the leading *organs* of the Department. He had good insight into the work he was tasked with³⁴ and obtained good re-

sults via organised and focused work on the projects “Profesor”³⁵, “Hortenzie”³⁶ and “Klára”³⁷. In April 1979 he directed five secret collaborators and *targeted* three more secret collaborator candidates, expecting to win them over for collaboration in a matter of months. *Comrade Kvítek is a member of a collective competing for the title “Model SNB Collective”, fulfilling his obligations as well as initiating more difficult assignments for his team.* In addition to further improving the search activities and agents/operative work regarding unauthorised youth organisations, and markedly expanding the agent network, he was to participate in reinforcing what was referred to as the “moral-political condition” and the professional development of young comrades (he was a patron to Lt. Medek at least).³⁸ Kvítek was promoted to the rank of captain on 1 May 1979.

A Charter 77 signatory in the family

Members of the Prague StB Directorate seized a hitherto unpublished list of new Charter 77 signatories during a search at Jan Bednář’s home on 2 April 1981. A check on the names and verification of their family members led to the discovery that one of the signatories was Zdeněk Kvítek, born on 21 August 1962, the son of an officer of the Counterintelligence Directorate for Combating the Internal Enemy. Eight days later, the finding was referred to officials of the 10th Directorate of the SNB: head of the 3rd Department of the 1st Section Lt. Col. Karel Časar; head of the 1st Section Maj. Karel Vykypěl; deputy head of the 3rd Section Maj.

27 Ibid., Certification from the Evening University of Marxism-Leninism of the Prague-East DC KSČ, no. 63, 27 Jun 1974.

28 Ibid., Record on instruction about obligations and restrictions under Act No. 102/1971 Coll. and other regulations on the protection of state secrets in the sectors of the MV, SNB, and MV Armed Forces, 16 Dec 1974. For organisational structure and work of the 3rd Dept., cf. KOUTEK, Ondřej: The 10th directorate of the SNB – the State Security section for the fight against the so-called internal enemy. *Securitas Imperii 14*, 2006, pp. 359, 376–381 and 409; ŽÁČEK, Pavel: *Prísne tajné. Státní bezpečnost za normalizace. Vybrané směrnice a metodické pokyny politické policie z let 1978–1989 (Top Secret: The State Security During Normalisation. Selected Guidelines and Methodological Orders of the Political Police from the Years 1978–1989)*. Votobia, Prague 2001, p. 206.

29 The “Vlk” pilot folder with registration number (hereinafter only r. č.) 6793 was opened on 11 Jan 1974 for Jiří Kafka (born 1936) and archived until 29 Sep 1976 under a. č. 573502 MV.

30 The “Skaut” control folder, r. č. 8289, was maintained by the 2nd Section of the 3rd Dept. of the 10th D-FMV for Václav Ševčík (born 1930) from 16 Dec 1974 to 24 Feb 1977.

31 The “Jeskyně” investigated person file (a pilot folder from 4 Sep 1974), r. č. 7122, was opened for Jaroslav Vaněk (born 1928) on 5 Apr 1974 and archived on 4 Nov 1977 under a. č. 662642 MV.

32 ABS, personal files; personal file of Miroslav Kvítek, born on 2 Feb 1933, a. č. 2910/33, Service evaluation of an SNB officer, 24 Mar 1975.

33 Ibid., Statement on private contacts of the SNB and Border Guard Corps members and professional soldiers of the MV Armed Forces (RMV ČSSR, Czech Socialist Republic, Slovak Socialist Republic No. 15/1978), 19 Jan 1979.

34 In addition to the mentioned counterintelligence folders, 1st Lt. Kvítek was responsible for the folders on enemy persons (NO) with r. č. 15635 (Jaroslav Dědič, born 1911) and r. č. 15536 (Karel Vinecký, born 1921), the “Punkva” searching folder with r. č. 15671; and on 7 July 1980 he assumed responsibility for the “Kras” object folder (on the Czech Union for Nature Conservation) r. č. 19896 and the “Lubka” control folder r. č. 19897 (Lubomír Škaloud, born 1930).

35 The “Profesor” pilot folder, r. č. 11407, on František Němec (born 1907) was opened on 8 Jul 1976 and archived on 16 May 1980 under a. č. 687742 MV.

36 The “Hortenzie” pilot folder, r. č. 14894, on Dagmar Skálová (born 1912) was opened on 20 Apr 1978 and archived on 16 May 1980 under a. č. 687764 MV.

37 The “Klára” pilot folder, r. č. 16076, on Karla Emlerová (born 1947) was opened on 24 Oct 1978 and archived on 12 May 1981 under a. č. 698475 MV.

38 Ibid., Comprehensive service evaluation of an SNB member, 25 Apr 1979.

Lagron; and Kvítek's direct superior Capt. Kubiček.³⁹

Maj. Lagron informed Capt. Kvítek that his son had become a signatory of Charter 77 on 13 April 1981. The news astounded the StB officer. *My son grew up in very good social situation, he tried to defend himself. I declare responsibly that he received systematic care from our family, aimed towards a single goal – to let him grow up a good citizen and a partisan of the socialist regime throughout the entire period of his being a minor.* He noted that his wife had been a member of the Communist Party since 1957 and had been working at the Correctional Facilities Corps. In addition, their daughter Miroslava had since 1978 been a member of the SNB and a candidate for KSCĚ membership.⁴⁰ *Up until September 1980, son Zdeněk had developed without any major changes of behaviour. He was an active member of the Pioneers organisation of the SSM while a schoolboy. Having completed his primary education, he took vocational training at Léciva Praha 10, completing it with a final exam in 1980. His behaviour changed once he became an adult. He terminated his employment and joined the Metro as a maintenance worker, employed until 31 March 1981. At present, he has told me, he is searching for a suitable job.*

The changes that occurred became apparent in that, probably under the influence of persons unknown to me, he started forming his own opinions on the development of society. At that time, i.e. September 1980, my wife and I tried to get our son to escape the environment that he had entered. Since I was not aware of any serious circumstances at the time, I did not seek help with the Party organisation.

The differences in our relationship – not in his behaviour – started to deepen in late October and early November 1980, as he said that he had come of age and would make his own living and refused

any help from the family. Since then, he has been cooking and shopping for himself and taking care of other associated things. Another major change in his character is that he has become sort of reserved and stopped confiding his affairs and problems to us. Despite all efforts by my wife, my daughter and myself, there have been no results so far. I am not trying to apologise for my son and he knows best how vigorously I explained to him what he had got himself into. So far, I have not broken his conviction or made him change his mind or, for that matter, made him withdraw his Charter signature. Since no one in our family knows his current friends, it is very difficult to find an effective solution with regard to how to treat him. My subjective opinion is that the best and perhaps the most efficient solution is to call him up for military service, and also to use a third party capable of talking to him about his actions and the related problems in a fitting manner, and to impress this on his psyche in an emotional way.

Given the seriousness of the case, Capt. Kvítek asked the Department's leaders as well as the chairman of the 3rd basic KSCĚ unit for help.⁴¹

The head of the Counterintelligence Directorate for Combating the Internal Enemy Gen. Maj. Vladimír Stárek approved Capt. Kubiček's proposal and Maj. Lagron's recommendation to hear the young signatory at the Prague 4-Spořilov Local VB Office in order to establish the circumstances under which he signed the CH-77 pamphlet and to force him in a tactical manner [...] to decide to voluntarily revoke his signature in writing. Should he refuse to do so, the plan was to emphasise the impact of his stance on his father, mother and sister, a Passport and Visa Directorate officer, who he was emotionally attached to. *In this respect, his sister Miroslava ZAMAZALOVÁ (née KVÍTKOVÁ) will be used to exert influence on her brother in order to make him de-*

cide in a positive manner. Should this fail too, they wanted to place Zdeněk Kvítek in detention at the Prague Municipal Directorate of the VB for 48 hours and then repeat the interrogation. Should even those measures fail, the Passport and Visa Directorate and the Correctional Facilities Corps Directorate will be informed in order for them to adopt their own measures. Capt. Kvítek was to be informed about the result too and required to submit his own written statement. *Once the set tasks are met, a decision will be made with respect to other cadre measures.*⁴²

Zdeněk Kvítek made a clear statement to Capt. Kubiček and 2nd Lt. Vladimír Beneš on 29 April 1981: *I refuse to answer any questions related to the signing of CHARTER 77. All I admit is that I have signed the CHARTER 77 declaration.*⁴³ The next day, at the Municipal Directorate of the VB in Konviktská St., he refused to talk altogether.⁴⁴ He was arrested shortly thereafter and placed in detention, from which he was released on 2 May 1981.⁴⁵

Capt. Kubiček ordered that Kvítek Jr.'s valid passport no. 7102418 and exit permit be withdrawn from him on 13 May 1981. This move was justified by the suspicion that he might emigrate to a capitalist foreign country.⁴⁶ Having found that he was present at the family's chalet in Chrášťany, officers of the 2nd Department of the 3rd Dept took advantage of *the good operative situation* and, in the presence of Captain Kvítek, *searched his personal belongings aimed at finding if travel documents are in the apartment or if he has them on him.*

1st Lt. René Špringer and 1st Lt. Jaromír Švec found the passport, exit permit and other documents, suggesting an attempt at leaving the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, in a locked chest, alongside various samizdat publications including Jirous' *Report on the 3rd Czech Musical Renaissance*, several texts by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and

39 ABS, f. Counterintelligence Folders - Headquarters ("MV-KR"), a. č. 818931 MV, record - Lt. Minařík 14 Apr 1981.

40 Miroslava Zamazalová, née Kvítková, a graduate of primary school (1964–1973), three-year vocational booksellers course (1973–1976), and a distance course from a librarians secondary school (1976–1981), was admitted as an office worker in the staff sergeant rank in the Internal Dept. (later, the 2nd Section of the Internal Dept., Mail Room - Dispatch Office) of the FMV Passport and Visa Directorate on 1 Aug 1977; on 3 Aug 1981, she applied for release from the SNB for serious personal reasons - the different political stance of my brother Zdeněk Kvítek; Mrs Zamazalová's service ended on 31 Dec 1981. ABS, personal files, personal file of Miroslava Zamazalová, born on 20 Apr 1958, a. č. 539/58.

41 Ibid., personal file of Miroslav Kvítek, born on 2 Feb 1933, a. č. 2910/33. Statement regarding the signing of CHARTER 77 by my son, Zdeněk KVÍTEK, 3 May 1981.

42 ABS, f. MV-KR, a. č. 818931 MV. Proposal for interrogation without the parents' knowledge and presence, Capt. V. Kubiček, by proxy Maj. Lagron, 21 Apr 1981.

43 Ibid., Deposition record, 29 Apr 1981, 2:00 - 3:45 pm.

44 Ibid., Continuation of deposition, 30 Apr 1981, 10:00 - 10:12 am.

45 Ibid., Record on detention of a suspect, 1st Lt. Jaroslav Klíma, Capt. Beran, 30 Apr 1981, 10:30 am; order for release from detention MD/VB Prague, 1st Lt. Klíma, 3. Dept. of 10th D-SNB, 2 May 1981, 10:30 am.

46 The action was initiated by Zdeněk Kvítek's sister who allegedly learned by accident that her brother received the VD (exit permit) for a trip abroad, then informed her father who notified his superiors in the 10th D-SNB. Refer to ABS, personal files, personal file of Miroslava Zamazalová, born on 20 Apr 1958, a. č. 539/58. Statement by M. Zamazalová, 6 Jul 1981.

nine photographs of Zdeněk Kvítek with František “Čuňas” Stárek. One of the 23 items seized, a nine-age samizdat publication on Buddhism apparently later became the reason his file was assigned the codename “Budha”.⁴⁷

Zdeněk Kvítek was then escorted from the chalet to his place of residence, forced to surrender his passport, and then escorted to the Passport and Visa Department of the Prague 10 District Directorate of the SNB where the documents were withdrawn from him. *In addition, the subject was blocked by the department with the goal of preventing any further issuance of a travel document.*⁴⁸ On the same day, the head of the 3rd Department of the 10th Directorate of the SNB, Col. Šubrt, justified the withdrawal of travel documents from the 18-year-old as follows: *The subject is a member of the politically defective youth, a hippie and a CH-77 signatory; he continues his negative political activities while influencing Czechoslovak young people. It is realistic to expect him to misuse his travels abroad, if any, for emigration and for organising anti-social acts, possibly endangering the Republic's interests abroad. The subject has recently received the entry visa to the FRG, FRANCE, and ENGLAND. Based on the aforesaid circumstances, and since Zdeněk KVÍTEK cannot be expected to represent the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic positively abroad, we request that his valid travel documents, including the exit permit, be withdrawn.*⁴⁹

Under pressure, Capt. Kvítek applied for release from the service as an officer of the SNB. On 15 May 1981, the 1st deputy head of the 10th Directorate of SNB Col. Jiří Dvořák held an interview with him. *The said person was informed that his application was premature. Our measures taken towards his son are aimed at helping matters and benefitting his family. Capt. Kvítek was informed that no cadre or party*

*measure aimed at him had been taken or considered, and that an application for release was not a solution. Capt. Kvítek intended his application to prevent various kinds of conjecture at his place of work. Based on this display of confidence, he withdrew his application, promising to do everything in cooperation with service organs to resolve the son's case to the benefit of the entire family.*⁵⁰

End of service career

By coincidence, the Czech People's Army intervened. By a decision of the Prague 10 District Draft Board, Zdeněk Kvítek was recognised as being temporarily incapable of military service on 9 June 1981.⁵¹ At the turn of June and July, the military directorate received an application for relocation from Czechoslovakia and for release from the country. As reasons, Zdeněk Kvítek cited his disapproval of the Communist Party and government policy, violation of basic human rights, fears of unfounded persecution due to his signing of Charter 77, and violations of the constitution and international human rights treaties in Czechoslovakia.⁵² The head of the District Military Directorate (OVS) Col. Josef Kuštein promptly responded that he had no objections to the relocation on principal.⁵³

On 3 July 1981, the head of Passport and Visa Directorate of the FMV Col. Marie Patejdrová informed the representatives of the 10th Directorate of the SNB that Zdeněk Kvítek had applied for relocation from Czechoslovakia. *As reasons, he cites in his application his disapproval of the policy of the KSČ and the Czechoslovak Government, a lack of civic freedom and his persecution as a signatory of “CHARTER-77”.* The deputy head of the Directorate Col. Dvořák requested the application be handed on for comments, but recommended rejecting it. He also

voiced his assumption that Kvítek Jr. would not refrain from his political actions and cannot be managed within the family, which would lead to a cadre measure regarding his father and the necessity of honouring his application for release, which had been rejected some time ago. *Hence, the Passport and Visa Directorate must also address the sister, and the Correctional Facilities Directorate the mother.*⁵⁴ On the same day, the Regional Passport and Visa Department of the Prague StB Directorate requested an opinion from the 10th Directorate of the SNB.⁵⁵

On 8 July 1981, Col. Dvořák informed Capt. Kvítek of his son's application to emigrate. The senior official of the 3rd Section was against it, of course. *Given his young age, immature experience in life, and the probable influence of a third party, and also given his lack of language skills and professional qualification to stay abroad, I disapprove of the positive resolution of his application.* To resolve matters, he again proposed that his son be called for military service, which could greatly influence [his] thinking and actions while breaking off relations with the expected third party who is probably influencing him.⁵⁶

After a reminder, the head of the 10th Directorate of SNB General Maj. Stárek finally commented on the matter on 10 August 1981, confirming to the Passport and Visa Directorate that he disapproved of the subject's relocation from Czechoslovakia. *Also, please be advised that I will be addressing an application for release from service filed by a SNB officer, the father of the applicant, Miroslav KVÍTEK this year.*⁵⁷ This meant that the end of the career of a senior StB official had been decided. Referring to serious family reasons that formed an obstacle to him remaining in active service any further, Captain Kvítek applied for release from service with the SNB on 26 August 1981. He admitted to being incapable of positively

47 ABS, f. MV-KR, a. č. 818931 MV, Proposal for interrogation without the parents' knowledge and presence, 21 Apr 1981. The investigated person file “Budha” r. č. 22760 was opened by the 2nd Section of the 3rd Dept. of the 10th D-SNB on 18 Jan 1982 and archived on 25 Sept 1987 under a. č. 818951 MV.

48 ABS, f. personal files, personal file of Miroslava Zamazalová, born on 20 Apr 1958, a. č. 539/58. Record, 1LT Špringer, 1LT Švec, 13 May 1981.

49 Ibid., KVÍTEK Zdeněk – born on 21 Aug 1962 – Justification of a Category III request, 1st Lt. Špringer, 13 May 1981, Ref. VN-00609/3-2-81.

50 ABS, f. personal files; personal file of Miroslav Kvítek, born on 2 Feb 1933, a. č. 2910/33. Record by VSRS KŠO 10th D-SNB, Lt-Col Jan Dajcar, 15 May 1981.

51 Ibid., Emigration application, OVS Prague 10 for MVS Prague, Lt. Col. Josef Kuštein, 2 Jul 1981. A copy of the document that the cadre directorate of the FMV received from the Main Military Counterintelligence Directorate (3rd D-SNB) was forwarded by its head Col Josef Soukup on 28 Sep 1981 under Ref. K-02586/50-81 F to the Head of the X. D-SNB on the grounds that it concerned the son of his subordinate officer.

52 Ibid., Application for emigration from the CSSR and release from state, 29 Jun 1981 (copy).

53 Ibid., Application for emigration, OVS Prague 10 for MVS Prague, 2 Jul 1981 (copy).

54 Ibid., Record, Lt. Col. Dvořák, 3 Jul 1981.

55 Ibid., Zdeněk KVÍTEK – born 1962 – Emigration Application – sent, Ref. PC-0075/2/81, 3 Jul 1981.

56 Ibid., Record, Capt. Kvítek, 8 Jul 1981.

57 Ibid., KVÍTEK, Zdeněk (21 Aug 1962) – Emigration Application – opinions on Ref. PC-0075/2/81, Ref. VN-0026/K-81, 10 Aug 1981.

influencing his son's current political views, as the latter had signed Charter 77 as well as taking steps towards emigrating from Czechoslovakia. Maj. Lagron recommended that the application be honoured. In respect of Capt. Kvítek's performance, political involvement, bad health and family problems, he proposed that three months' salary be paid to Mr Kvítek as severance pay. General Maj. Stárek brought his service to an end on 31 October 1981. *In the absence of serious personal or family reasons, [...] the entitlement to severance pay exists, and he meets the requirement for the allocation of service contribution,*⁵⁸ he commented on Kvítek's application.

Prior to Kvítek's departure from the SNB, the FMV received a letter from the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Sports Association (ČSTV) reporting his interest in employment.

The letter bears a note: *Out of the question.* The requested personnel documents were not provided and Comrade Kvítek was asked to *cancel his application with the addressee via telephone.*⁵⁹ The 10th Directorate of the SNB only recommended his hasty employment at the Production Facility Directorate of the Czech Department of ČSTV.⁶⁰ The essential cadre opinion stated that he had worked hard at the SNB for 24 years. *Comrade Kvítek was awarded the medal "For Service to the Country" in 1969 and "For Merit in Defence of the Country" in 1971 for his active political involvement and consistent good results at work. [...] He is a class aware, politically mature, and uncompromising advocate of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.*⁶¹

Towards the end of the year, the 10th Directorate of SNB forwarded Comrade

Miroslav Kvítek's cadre evaluation and military card to the Prague 10 District Military Directorate, as he had been released from an unrecorded department of the FMV. *In respect of his life and service and his personal share in the delivery on assignments at StB, I recommend that Comrade Kvítek retain his captain's rank achieved in the SNB as a military rank.*⁶²

The story of the Kvítek family, told on the basis of the surviving archives, probably does not lend itself to a general conclusion. At any rate, what can be said is that even the families of repressive force members were not immune to dissenting views and that their members could individually oppose the prevailing power of the communist system – and that this was possible even in the depths of the period referred to as the “normalisation”.

58 Ibid., Application for release of an SNB officer from service, 26 Aug 1981.

59 Ibid., Request for loan of cadre documents, Dana Řezníčková, Ref. A 2/1348/81-SI, 9 Oct 1981.

60 Ibid., Request for cadre documents, Josef Červ, Ref. C 5 – 4820/KPP/Tr/81, 21 Aug 1981.

61 Ibid., Service evaluation of an SNB officer upon service termination, 26 Oct 1981.

62 Ibid., Cadre evaluation for Military Directorate, 15 Dec 1981, sent under Ref. VN-0301/81, 21 Dec 1981.