

Negotiations with KGB

Direct management of Czechoslovak security authorities through advisors with various sections of the Ministry of Interior became a political anachronism after 1956. The headquarters of the Soviet state security service tried to create a new system of bilateral arrangements based on the negotiations between the top officials of the Committee of State Security (KGB) and the Czechoslovak Ministry of Interior. The negotiations resulted in operative and technical priorities, the observance of which was to be verified at least once a year. The individual organisational units' officials on the level of operative administrations provided for details in their documents; for example, heads of departments arranged for certain details.

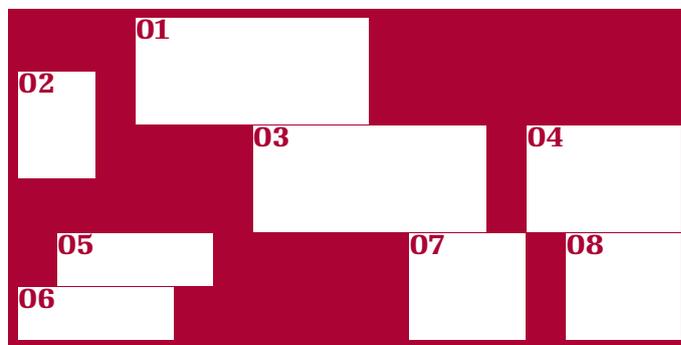
A standardised form of the meetings between both ministries' top officials started in Moscow in June 1960. A year later, another discussion was held in Prague in the presence of KGB Chairman Alexander Nikolayevich Shelyepin, Head of the I. Main Administration Alexander Mikhaylovich Sakharovsky, Head of the II. Main Administration O. M. Gribanov, and the chief Soviet advisor in Czechoslovakia Fotiy V. Peshekhonov. On the Czechoslovak part, the summit attendants were the Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Interior Rudolf Barák, the current minister Lubomír Štrougal, his deputies Josef Kudrna and Jaroslav Klíma, deputy Head of the I. Administration of the MoI Lt-Col Bohumír Molnár AKA "Drábek" and the Head of the II. Administration of the MoI Col Vladimír Matoušek.

As in other cases, the summit discussed the coordinated use of forces and means in "combating the main enemy", i.e. the USA and their allies. The documents from the discussions between both intelligence services' representatives captured tasks in 'work on American objects' within and outside the US, especially in emerging countries (Congo, Angola, Indonesia, UAR). It was said that cooperation had started between the residents of the I. Administration of the MoI and I. Main Administration of KGB in the US (New York, Washington), UK, France, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Turkey, Guinea, Mali, Mexico, Indonesia, India and the United Arab Republic.

The topical task of the allied counter-intelligence services was controlling international tourists and obtaining secret ciphers and documents including diplomatic mail of foreign countries' embassies. As a priority, operative attention was meant to focus on the embassies of the US, UK, France, and Israel. The Soviet state security made maximum efforts to utilise agency networks of its Czechoslovak partners and, with their help, to 'slip' its agents to the identified objects. KGB agents with cover names "Petr" and "Charlie" were directed to the US embassy; "Černý" was on a mission against UK's ambassador; KGB agent "Kennedy" was on a mission with Israel's embassy through "Husa" (Goose), a secret collaborator of StB; etc.

The top officials of the VII. Administration of Tracking met in Prague in June 1963. The main topic was sharing experience with tracking persons that were 'worked on', mainly citizens of capitalist countries, protection of embassies, use of special technologies, organisation of the ustanovka, use of agent and confident networks, and loans of Soviet technical films on tracking. Regular meetings on this level were intended to take place once a year.

Two years later, both Ministries' officials, led by Minister of Interior Josef Kudrna and KGB Chairman Vladimir Yefimovich Semichastny evaluated the observance of the arrangement from July 1962. The documents from the meetings mention the need to expand and deepen the exchange of operative information,



coordination of agency / operative action against western intelligence services and centres of ideological subversion, experience sharing, and the coordination of production and introduction of new operative technologies.

The weakening of international ties, destruction of StB during the Prague Spring, and the subsequent occupation loosened mutual relationships. It took a number of months for the cooperation between the operative and technical sections of the MoI and the police to return to the previous level.

01 Correspondence on the preparations of the summit of officials of espionage and counterespionage divisions of the State Security and the KGB and the plan of the stay of the Czechoslovak delegation in Moscow (summer 1961)

02 The front page of the programme of the negotiations of the leadership of the Ministry of Interior and the KGB on the cooperation of the espionage and counterespionage divisions in the capitalist foreign countries (June 12 - 19, 1962)

03 Documentation of the Espionage Headquarters of the Public Security on working negotiations with the First Chief Directorate of the KGB (1989)

04 Minutes on the stay of the Soviet delegation in CSSR devoted to development of technologies of radio-counterespionage forces (July 9 - 14, 1962)

05 Minutes on the negotiation of the leading officials of the intelligence surveillance divisions of the State Security and the KGB in Prague were approved by the leading officials of both bodies (June 17 - 24, 1963)

06 Plan of the negotiation of delegation of the Ministry of Interior of CSR sent to Prague from the secretariat of the KGB Chairman (June 21 - 26, 1966)

07 Aside from StB, the top officials of both ministries paid great attention to the cooperation of border guard forces (March 1958)

08 Report on negotiation of the leadership of the Ministry of Interior of CSSR and the leadership of the KGB in Prague (May 28 - 30, 1965)

