

Czechoslovak Security Advisers in Mali in the Years 1960–1964

The foreign policy of communist Czechoslovakia/the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (Československá socialistická republika, ČSSR) was subordinate to the interests of the Soviet Union. Since the second half of the 1950s, it had begun to make political and economic inroads in Africa with a view to supporting the decolonization movements and procommunist regimes of newly established states. Czechoslovakia was also involved in these activities and, unlike other communist states, it could build on its foreign policy experience in Africa between the two world wars.¹

Since the beginning of the 1960s, the Soviet bloc had divided African states into three categories. In the highest category there were countries of priority interest that had established diplomatic and trade relations with states from the Soviet bloc and which were following the so-called non-capitalist path of development. The second category consisted of countries with mutually beneficial economic relations, which were not following a non-capitalist path of development but maintained contact with states from the Soviet bloc. The third category comprised countries that were dependent “on imperialism”, which had no interest in relations with states from the Soviet bloc. Czechoslovak foreign policy in 1961 listed Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and the United Arab Republic as countries of priority interest. In the case of the Republic of Mali, Czechoslovakia provided assistance in the areas of science, technology, health-care, culture, education, and security.² This paper will take a look at the tasks and activities of Czechoslovak security advisers in this state in the first half of the 1960s.

The territory of the today's Republic of Mali was part of the French colonies in western Africa. From 1920, it was known as French Sudan, and as the autonomous Sudanese Republic from November 24, 1958 (not to be confused with present-day Sudan in northeast Africa) within the framework of the French Community. On 20 June 1960, the autonomous republics of Sudan and Senegal established a sovereign state called the Mali Federation. However, the coexistence of the two republics in one federation was marked by serious political disputes, including a different attitude to France. The Senegalese part cooperated closely with its former colonial power, while the Sudanese leaders adopted a staunchly anticolonial and antiimperialist stance. As a result of this, the Mali Federation disintegrated after several months and, alongside an independent Senegal, the independent Republic of Mali was established on 22 September 1960.³

1 ZÍDEK, Petr: *Československo a francouzská Afrika 1948–1968* (Czechoslovakia and French Africa 1948–1968). Libri, Prague 2006, pp. 13–17.

2 Ibid., pp. 55–57 and 121.

The beginnings of Czechoslovak-Malian security cooperation date back to the summer of 1959. At a social event organized by the Polish commercial department in Paris on 27 August 1959, a certain Mr Jacques (who is not named more fully in the documentation), a representative of the company Comptoir Européan and a member of the French Communist Party, made contact with Otakar Koutský (codename “Kovář”), an officer of the resident station⁴ with the Czechoslovak intelligence service.⁵ He conveyed a request for a meeting with him from Madeira Keita, the interior minister of what was then still the autonomous Sudanese Republic. Minister Keita had been tasked by his government with ascertaining the willingness of Czechoslovakia to assist the Sudanese Republic in the area of security, as it had done in the neighboring state of Guinea.⁶ After several intergovernmental Czechoslovak-Sudanese negotiations and the declaration of an independent Republic of Mali (20 June 1960), Czechoslovak security assistance began to be implemented in the autumn of 1960. It consisted of advisory activities in training Malian security forces and supplying weapons and operational equipment.

Two types of Czechoslovak security advisers operated in Mali in the years 1960–1964. The first comprised advisers on short-term assignments, such as giving lectures on security courses (their numbers are not known). The second type consisted of permanent advisers, who worked for several months or even years at the Malian Ministry for Security and Defense (see below). Although they were managed by Czechoslovak intelligence, they were recruited from various units of the State Security services (Státní bezpečnost – StB, Secret Police) or the Public Security (Věřejná bezpečnost – VB, Police Corps) of the National Security Corps (Sbor národní bezpečnosti, SNB), e.g. from the African department of the intelligence service, from the Intelligence Technology Directorate (Správa zpravodajské techniky), the Brno Directorate of the VB (Správa VB), the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior (Krajská správa Ministerstva vnitra) in Košice, and the Ministry of the Interior’s Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky Central School (Ústřední škola Ministerstva vnitra Felixe Edmundoviče Dzeržinského) in Prague.

3 *Archív Ústavu paměti národa*, Bratislava (The Nation’s Memory Institute Archive, hereafter referred to as A ÚPN), f. (Fund) I. správa FMV (Ist Directorate of the Federal Ministry of the Interior), reg. č. (registry No.) 11242/000, Sudan, 16. 11. 1959 and *Ibid.*, Bývalý Francouzský Súdán (Former French Sudan), undated. Also see LACINA, Karel, et al: *Nejnovější dějiny Afriky* (The Latest History of Africa). Svoboda, Prague 1987, pp. 230–231, 235, 581.

4 Rezidentura (Resident station) – a covered intelligence center abroad. See *Archív bezpečnostních složek*, Prague (Security Services Archive, hereafter referred to as ABS), f. Hlavní správa rozvědky/I. správa (Main Intelligence Directorate), k. (Box) 271, Statut legálních rezidentur (Statute of Legal Resident Stations), 10. 10. 1964.

5 Intelligence, codename Ist Directorate – State Security unit for intelligence activity abroad/Foreign-Political Intelligence. See *Ibid.*, Statut I. správy MV (Statute of the Ist Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior), 25. 2. 1963.

6 *A ÚPN*, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11242/000, Zpráva o rozhovoru se sudánským ministrem vnitra panem Madeira Keitou (Report on a conversation with the Sudanese interior minister, Mr. Madeira Keita), 5. 9. 1959. Czechoslovak security advisers operated in Guinea in the years 1959–1969. See *Ibid.*, reg. č. 80656/000.

Activities of Czechoslovak advisers

In the first months of their activities, the Czechoslovak advisers in Mali focused on obtaining an overview of the status and organization of the security apparatus, reviewing and characterizing Malian security executives, and assessing the political and economic situation in the country.⁷ On 10 November, 1960, the leading Czechoslovak adviser, Josef Huzlík, sent a report on the situation in the Malian security forces. At that time, they had a broad structure inherited from the French colonial period. They consisted of the *Gendarmerie*, *Gardes Republicaines*, *Police Attribution militaire*, *Police Campagnes et voies de communication*, *Brigade mobile*, and the *criminal and public-order police*.⁸ Huzlík later characterized the performance of these units as *primitive, cumbersome, and uncoordinated*, and relations between them were *not good*. The Czechoslovak advisers proposed creating a simple security apparatus. However, after initial approval from the interior minister, a proposal was submitted to the government for deliberation, which left the existing security forces as they were, but created a new counterintelligence section.⁹

According to Huzlík, there was camaraderie and nepotism in the security forces, and there was distrust between commanders and subordinates. Although the new structure for the security forces was approved by the interior minister Madeira Keita and the Malian president Modibo Keita, the new commanders had still not been approved in November 1960, because they were awaiting the approval of the interim government in the parliament. At the suggestion of the Czechoslovak advisers and the Malian interior minister, officers had been selected for operations. For future counterintelligence officers, the Czechoslovak advisers prepared a proposal for training and plans for tasks and material security for the prepared counterintelligence section. At that time, the work of the Czechoslovak security advisers was complicated by a number of factors. Although the Czechoslovak advisers' proposals were well received and problems to be resolved had been submitted to them on the part of the Malian government, some Malian officials tried to limit the activity of the Czechoslovak advisers to training. Huzlík cited the failure to observe elementary principles of conspiracy as a serious shortcoming, which allowed the contents of meetings between Czechoslovak advisers and Malian officials to fall into the hands of capitalist embassies in Mali. The position of the Czechoslovak advisers was also complicated by the American delegation's offer to supply off-road vehicles for Malian security, which would also have meant the presence of American instructors. Huzlík viewed the acceptance of such an offer as paradoxical, as they had identified American chargé d'affaires at the time as an intelligence officer, and the Malian government didn't

7 *A ÚPN*, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/000, Zpráva o činnosti čs. poradců po linii MV v Republice MALI (Report on the activities of Czechoslovak advisers along the lines of the Ministry of the Interior in the Republic of Mali), 7. 12. 1960.

8 *Ibid.*, Situace v bezpečnostních složkách Republiky Mali (The situation in the security services in the Republic of Mali), 10. 11. 1960.

9 *Ibid.*, Zpráva o činnosti čs. poradců po linii MV v Republice MALI, 7. 12. 1960.

trust the Americans for this reason. Consequently, the Czechoslovak advisers had not yet provided pre-prepared, explanatory reports for the new organization of the ministry or lecture materials to the head of the cabinet of the Malian Ministry of Interior. Huzlík also worked out the basic characteristics of the Malian Ministry of the Interior, the head of its cabinet, the head of security, and the central commissioner.¹⁰

On 15 November 1960, Czechoslovak advisers began training 24 officers for counterintelligence work, they were selected from all security services. With a view to not endangering the performance of duties as staffing levels were low in Malian security, the training took place in the evening in addition to their regular employment. The training was also attended by the director of Malian security, the city commissioner, and the head of the second army division, who was supposed to prepare the creation of military counterintelligence.¹¹

A major reorganization of Malian security did not take place until 1962. According to a report dated on 31 August 1962, Public Security structures were narrowed down to the police, the gendarmerie, and the republican guard. Based on a decree by the Malian president on 25 April 1962, State Security was established as the second unit with the codename Sector 401, which was led by a commander and his deputy. The main operational divisions consisted of the following sections: 401 A – counterintelligence for the fight against external enemies, 401 B – counterintelligence for the fight against internal enemies, 401 C – economic counterintelligence, 401 D – military counterintelligence, 401 E – intelligence, 401 F – arrests and investigations. The other divisions were six regional headquarters (Gao, Segou, Mopti, Sikasso, Kayes, Bamako) with the codename 401 G–L, which can be compared to the then regional administrations of the StB in Czechoslovakia. The structure was complemented by departments of human resources and training, as well as for the protection of government officials, operational equipment, surveillance, filing and archives, an economic and finance department, communications and crypting. It was not easy to establish a new structure for police forces in Mali. Several government representatives and the only permitted political party at that time (the Sudanese Union – African Democratic Rally) did not understand the purpose of new police divisions for the fight against external and internal enemies. They justified this with the fact that *under the French, a few people was all that was needed for security, no such unit had existed and yet things still worked out quite well.*¹²

The impact of Czechoslovakia on the security structures of the Republic of Mali can also be seen in the inclusion of Malian graduates from a six-month security course, which was held in Czechoslovakia from April 25 to October 20, 1962. Of the 32 students, 25 were assigned to units from Sector 401 with the other seven going to police and gendarmerie units. Graduates of the course included, for example, the

10 Ibid., Situace v bezpečnostních složkách Republiky Mali, 10. 11. 1960.

11 Ibid., Dodatek ke zprávě (An addendum to the report), undated (probably an addendum to a document in the previous note).

12 Ibid., Zpráva o situaci v bezpečnostních orgánech Republiky Mali (Report on the situation in the security services in the Republic of Mali), 31. 8. 1962.

State Security adviser to the Malian state secretary for security and defense, three sectional chiefs from Sector 401 (the chief of counterintelligence for the fight against external enemies, the chief of counterintelligence for the fight against internal enemies, and the chief of economic counterintelligence), the chiefs of Sector 401 departments for surveillance, investigations, archives and records, and the chiefs of four regional headquarters (Mopti, Segou, Sikasso, Kayes).¹³

Profiles of selected advisers

The variety of the activities of individual Czechoslovak advisers in Mali went beyond their official functions. This is borne out by the practical activity of three selected advisers assigned to different positions – the leader of the group of advisers, a technical adviser, and interpreter.

Lieutenant Colonel Josef Huzlík (codename “Hulač”) worked as the leader of the group of advisers in Mali from November 1, 1960 to November 8, 1962. He participated in the preparation of several internal standards, such as administrative rules and guidelines for agency and operational work. For members of Malian security, he ensured the printing of service ID cards and oaths of office in Czechoslovakia. He organized training for members of counterintelligence, the protection of government officials, and cryptographers. He also prepared training for dog handlers and trackers, which did not take place, however, until after his successor was in place. In addition to his advisory activities, he also carried out intelligence tasks. As the head of the advisers, he was in close contact with heads of Malian security and he used his contacts to obtain intelligence information, not just about the political situation in Mali, but also about other national liberation movements in Africa. In just 1962, he obtained more than 70 valuable reports. Last but not least, Huzlík developed a structure for State Security in Mali, which had been lacking, and guidelines for its work.¹⁴ Josef Huzlík joined the SNB on 7 July 1945. In 1949–1953, he worked in StB structures. He went to Mali when he was the deputy chief of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior (Krajská správa Ministerstva vnitra) in Brno. A month after returning from Mali, he was appointed a chief of the Inspection and control department (Kontrolní a inspekční odbor) of the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior, and he remained in this post until February 27, 1965, when he died in a car accident.¹⁵

Captain František Šimon (codename “Štědrý”) worked in Mali as a technical adviser from July 21, 1961 to October 8, 1963. He supervised the activation of an

13 A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/011, Frekventanti z Babíc – zaradenie (Trainees from Babice – classification), 15. 11. 1962.

14 ABS, f. Hlavní správa rozvědky/I. správa, reg. č. 39122, Závěrečné hodnocení práce soudruha pplk. Josefa Huzlíka, nar. 10. 1. 1921, za dobu jeho pobytu v zahraničí (Final evaluation of the work of comrade Lieutenant Colonel Josef Huzlík, born 10. 1. 1921, during his stay abroad), 14. 11. 1962.

15 Ibid., f. Personální spisy příslušníků MV (Personal files of members of the Ministry of the Interior), personální spis Josef Huzlík, nar. 1921 (Personal file of Josef Huzlík, born 1921), ev. č. (evidential No.) 3453/21, Osobní evidenční karta příslušníka MV (Personal registration card of a member of the Ministry of the Interior).

eavesdropping switchboard that Czechoslovakia had donated to the Malian security. He trained members of the Malian security, both in the operation of the eavesdropping switchboard and in the setting of intelligence technology. He personally led courses on counterintelligence and the protection of government officials as well as self-defense and shooting courses. Despite his lack of knowledge of the French language, he also worked as an interpreter for Czechoslovak lecturers giving courses on pyrotechnics, crypting, and surveillance. However, the Czechoslovak State Security also used Šimon for its own purposes. He submitted copies of information that he obtained from the operational techniques, which he had helped Malian security implement, to the Czechoslovak resident station in Mali. He also obtained intelligence information from personal contacts that he had established in the Malian security.¹⁶ František Šimon had worked in several StB divisions since 1954. When he left for Mali, he had been a technician in the Intelligence Technology Directorate/VIth Directorate (Správa zpravodajské techniky/VI. správa). After returning from Mali, he was appointed as a department chief in the Intelligence Technology Directorate. From 1973, he worked as department chief and as a divisional chief in the Directorate for the Protection of Party and Constitutional Officials/Vth Directorate (Správa ochrany stranických a ústavních činitelů/V. správa). He ended his service on 31 December 1989 with the rank of colonel.¹⁷

Lieutenant Miloslav Novák (codename “Nezbeda”) worked for two stints as an interpreter in Mali: from September 27, 1961 to March 31, 1963 and December 20, 1963 to 1 September 1964. He worked as an interpreter for two chief advisers (Huzlík and Ján Pobeha¹⁸), but also for other permanent and short-term advisers during teaching and official meetings. As of 1962, Novák was also assigned intelligence tasks. As an interpreter, however, he lacked agent and operational experience. As a result, he was not able to handle secret collaborators and did not achieve the desired results despite his efforts. Due to his illness, he suspended his activities in Mali in 1963, and during this break he completed a short-term placement at Czechoslovak intelligence headquarters in Prague in the Information department and African department. This experience stood him in good stead during his second sojourn in Mali, where he handled one secret collaborator under the direction of the chief adviser Ján Pobeha and helped Pobeha in managing others. Like other advisers, Novák also obtained infor-

16 ABS, f. Hlavní správa rozvědky/I. správa, reg. č. 39127, Závěrečné hodnocení práce soudruha kpt. Šimona Františka, nar. 7. 9. 1930, za dobu jeho pobytu v zahraničí (Final evaluation of the work of comrade Captain Šimon František, born 7. 9. 1930, during his stay abroad), 17. 10. 1963. Also *A ÚPN*, f. I. správa FMV, svazek (Volume) reg. č. 11426/000, Závěrečná správa Františka Šimona (Final report from František Šimon), 21. 10. 1963.

17 ABS, f. Personální spisy příslušníků MV, personální spis František Šimon, nar. 1930, ev. č. 3839/30, Osobní evidenční karta příslušníka MV.

18 Ján Pobeha worked as the leading adviser in Mali from November 15, 1962 to September 16, 1964. See SIVOŠ, Jerguš: *Centrála ŠtB na Slovensku. Vznik, vývoj a zánik Hlavnjej správy Štátnej bezpečnosti Slovenskej socialistickej republiky (1969 – 1974)* (StB headquarters in Slovakia. The establishment, development, and termination of the Slovakian Main State Security Directorate /1969–1974/). In: *Sborník Archivu bezpečnostních složek* (Security Services Archive Anthology), No. 9. ABS, Prague 2011, pp. 275–276.

mation from his contacts in the Malian security forces for the needs of Czechoslovak intelligence.¹⁹ Miloslav Novák joined the SNB on 16 December 1954. He had worked in units of the StB from November 15, 1960. When he went to Mali, he had been working as an interpreter in intelligence's African department, and after returning from Mali a second time, he was assigned as a case officer to the African department. Until his death on 24 June 1978, he worked in intelligence in Personnel and education department (Kádrový a školský odbor) 1965–1969, Information department (Informační odbor) 1969–1978, and Secretariat of the intelligence chief (Sekretariát náčelníka rozvědky) 1978.²⁰

End of cooperation

At the beginning of April 1964, a fundamental change occurred in Czechoslovak-Malian security cooperation. The Malian state secretary for defense and security, Mamadou Diakite, informed the Czechoslovak embassy and the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior about a decision by the Malian government in September 1964 to terminate the activities of Czechoslovak security advisers in Mali. The reason they gave for the decision was that, as part of the Organization of African Unity, the Republic of Mali had advocated the removal of permanent foreign military advisers in Africa, and it therefore had to lead the other states by example through ending the activities of permanent Czechoslovak advisers in its police forces.²¹ In August 1964, however, the leading Czechoslovak adviser, Ján Pobeha, managed to operationally acquire information, which indicated that the departure of the Czechoslovak advisers had also been facilitated by the chief of Malian counterintelligence being replaced by a new man as of February 1964 – Abdoulaye Diallo, who wanted to introduce the system that he had learned in France.²²

The permanent Czechoslovak advisers ended their work in Mali on 16 September 1964, and, after taking leave, they were assigned to divisions of State Security and Public Security in Czechoslovakia. A year later, the two-member Czechoslovak resident station, which had been operating in Mali since September 1960, was abolished. With the termination of advisory and intelligence activities in Mali, Czechoslovakia not only lost the opportunity to operationally obtain information concerning Mali, but also the chance to operationally obtain information concerning other African states.²³

19 ABS, f. Hlavní správa rozvědky/I. správa, reg. č. 39128, Soudruh npor. Miloslav Novák – hodnocení práce v zahraničí (Comrade Ist Lieutenant Miloslav Novák – evaluation of work abroad), 21. 10. 1964.

20 ABS, f. Personální spisy příslušníků MV, personální spis Miloslav Novák, nar. 1930, ev. č. 2716/30, Kádrová charakteristika (Personnel characteristics), 8. 1. 1973. The cause of his death is not given in the personnel file, just that it happened outside of work.

21 A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/301, Poradci čs. MV v Bamaku (Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior Advisers in Bamako), undated (in the text of the document, April 8 is given as the date on which notification was given of being crossed off).

22 Ibid., reg. č. 11426/000, Poznátky k ukončeníu naší činnosti v Mali a o situaci vo vedení malij[skej] bezpečnosti (Information on the end of our activities in Mali and on the situation in the management of Malian security), 26. 8. 1964.

23 For more detail, see ZÍDEK, Petr: *Československo a francouzská Afrika 1948–1968*.

Overview of permanent Czechoslovak security advisers in the Republic of Mali

Adviser	Position	Duration
Josef Huzlík “Hulač”	head adviser	1. 11. 1960 – 8. 11. 1962
Jan Pobeha “Podhora”	head adviser	15. 10. 1962 ²⁴ – 16. 9. 1964
Tibor Pavelek “Pinkava”	adviser	1. 2. 1964 – 16. 9. 1964
František Šimon “Štědrý”	technician	1. 11. 1961 – 8. 10. 1963
Oldřich Duras “Danda”	technician	1. 8. 1963 – 16. 9. 1964
Zdeněk Skácel “Souček”	criminologist	1. 8. 1963 – 16. 9. 1964
Jiří Telecký “Tichava”	cynologist	3. 1. 1964 – 16. 9. 1964
Miloslav Novák “Nezbeda”	interpreter	27. 9. 1961 – 31. 3. 1963 and 20. 12. 1963 – 16. 9. 1964
Vladimír Zelenka “Zelený”	interpreter	27. 12. 1962 – 14. 12. 1963

24 In connection with exchanging and taking over the scope of duties, the tenures of chief intelligence officers (residents) overlapped for a short time. Taking over the scope of duties is probably also the reason for the overlapping tenures of leading security advisers in Mali.

DOCUMENTS

The transcript of four documents given below illustrates the forms of Czechoslovak security assistance for the Republic of Mali.

Document 1

5 April 1961 – Bamako. Official note

TRANSLATION

Republic of Mali

Government presidium

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bamako, 5 April 1961

OFFICIAL NOTE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveys its respects to the embassy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and has the honor of asking it to pass on the following to the Czechoslovak government for its kind attention:

Within the framework of agreements on technical assistance concluded between both countries, the government of the Republic of Mali asks the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to make a contribution to building up security forces, which should consist of:

- 1) Providing and installing technical material intended for the security service.
- 2) Training Malian personnel on site, or in specialized Czechoslovak facilities.

In this respect, the Foreign Ministry [of the Republic of Mali] would like to let the [Czechoslovak] embassy know that the two C[zecho]sl[ovak] specialists²⁵ currently on duty in Mali are fully satisfying the government.

The government of Mali really appreciates the new assistance that the Czechoslovak government is bringing in terms of consolidating its independence.

Upon obtaining the crucial consent of the Czechoslovak government, the Foreign Ministry will bring the [Czechoslovak] embassy and the State Secretariat of Defense and Security together in order to work out the details, set conditions, and methods of requested assistance.

The ministry would like to take this opportunity to once again assure the embassy of its utmost respect.

On behalf of the foreign minister
in his absence
State minister

Jean Marie KONE

A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/000, pp. 35–36. Microfiche copy, typescript, two pages.

Document 2

10 May 1961 – Prague. Summary of shipments

Ist Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, 10 May 1961

Comrade [...] ²⁶

Rudolf B a r á k ²⁷

Interior Minister,

h e r e

Dear comrade minister!

Please find enclosed a summary of the consignments that we have handed over to Malian security to date.

At the same time, we are sending other requirements of Malian security in connection with the visit to Prague by the state secretary for Malian security Mamadou D i a k i t é.

Chief of the 1st Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior:

Col. M i l l e r ²⁸

[...] ²⁹

1. By way of the adviser, comrade H u z l í k, Malian security was sent 150 papers concerning all Ministry of the Interior issues. C[omrades] H u z l í k and S o u k u p ³⁰ will train Malian personnel in accordance with these papers.

At the same time, an extensive political paper on the nature of the state apparatus of each state was also sent. ³¹

26 Stamped: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

27 Rudolf Barák (1915–1995) was interior minister from September 14, 1953 to June 20, 1961. See PROKOP, Tomek: Barák Rudolf. In: KALOUS, Jan, et al.: *Biografický slovník představitelů ministerstva vnitra v letech 1948–1989. Ministři a jejich náměstci* (A biographical dictionary of Ministry of the Interior officials in the years 1948–1989. Ministers and their deputies). ÚSTR (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes), Prague 2009, pp. 45–48.

28 Jaroslav Miller (1914–?) was chief of the Foreign-Political Intelligence – 1st Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior (I. správa MV) from October 1, 1953 to November 22, 1961. See ŽÁČEK, Pavel: Miller (ně. Plešinger) Jaroslav. In: BÁRTA, Milan, et al.: *Biografický slovník náčelníků operativních správ Státní bezpečnosti v letech 1953–1989* (A biographical dictionary of State Security operational directive chiefs in the years 1953–1989). ÚSTR – Academia, Prague 2017, pp. 388–397.

29 Signature.

30 It was not possible to identify the officer mentioned in the text under the real name or codename Soukup.

31 Probably individual states of the world.

2. In December 1960, when the Republic of Mali called on France to withdraw its troops from bases in Mali, it urgently requested the following shipment from the C[zecho]S[lovak]S[ocialist]R[epublic] as a gift:

rifles	3,400
submachine guns	770
light machine guns	440
heavy machine guns	100
antitank guns	20
assault knives	2,000
transmitters and rec[eivers]	250
gas masks	100
tents	20 ³²
teargas grenades	1,500
mine detectors	100
assault grenades	5,000
radio trucks	2
electric batteries	2/220 V
	3/100 V

Based on the aforementioned request, in December c[omrade] deputy [Jaroslav] K l í m a³³ personally handed over the following to interior minister MADEIRA KEITA:

7.65 mm caliber pistols	500
9.23 mm caliber submachine guns	25
5.6 mm caliber rimfires	5
heavy machine gun mod[el] 37, c[aliber] 7.92	1
heavy machine gun mod[el] 42N, c[aliber] 7.92 mm	2
rounds for pistols	25,000
machine gun rounds	6,300
machine gun rounds	5,760
rimfire rounds	1,250
knives	150

The weapons were delivered with all accessories, including 5 telescopic sights and 5 small searchlights.

32 The number 20 was subsequently crossed out.

33 Jaroslav Klíma (1921–?) was deputy interior minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic from October 29, 1962 to May 31, 1968. See CAJTHAML, Petr: Klíma Jaroslav. In: KALOUS, Jan, et al.: *Biografický slovník představitelů ministerstva vnitra v letech 1948–1989. Ministři a jejich náměstci*, pp. 86–89.

3. At present, Malian security is asking for operational technology and ciphering experts to be sent. The sending of a cipherer is being prepared by the Special Directorate³⁴ and, according to c[omrade] Lieutenant Colonel Bokr,³⁵ an operational technician is due to leave in mid-June.

4. Another consignment of weapons has been prepared for the Republic of Mali at our Ministry of the Interior. It has still not been sent in view of the crash involving Czechoslovak aircraft Il-18.³⁶

We are looking for means of transport to ship the consignment.

5. Other requests from Malian security:

- a) to send an operational technician to the Republic of Mali who would propose a plan for communication and participate both in building up these links and training radio operators and servicemen for keeping them repaired and maintained;
- b) to facilitate the training of operational officers in Prague in a six-month course at the start of 1962;
- c) to facilitate the training of three operational technicians, namely a photographic technician and a technician for screening correspondence;
- d) [to supply] all operational equipment, including an eavesdropping telephone exchange, as well as equipment for screening correspondence and photo-technology;
- e) [to supply] a greater quantity of teargas grenades,
500 gas masks,
200 RALK-brand handcuffs, and
tents where possible.

6. They will probably request an adviser for M[ilitary]C[ounter]I[n]telligence].³⁷

A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/000, pp. 52–55. Microfiche copy, typescript, four pages.

34 In original Zvláštní správa.

35 Jan Bokr (1926–?) was the first deputy chief of the Intelligence Technology Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior (IXth Directorate) from October 1953 to July 31, 1962. See KALOUS, Jan – POVOLNÝ, Daniel: Bokr Jan. In: BĀRTA, Milan, et al.: *Biografický slovník náčelníků operativních správ Státní bezpečnosti v letech 1953–1989*, pp. 191–197.

36 Probably a reference to an accident near Nuremberg involving a Czechoslovak aircraft, which flew from Prague to Bamako in Mali on 28 March 1961.

37 In original VKR – Vojenská kontrarozvědka.

Document 3

1 August 1962 – Prague. StB course for Malians in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

[...] ³⁸ 1 August 1962

Ministry of the Interior,
Ist Directorate, [...] ³⁹
Attn.: c[omrade] Janouš, ⁴⁰ [...] ⁴¹
P r a g u e

On 28 July 1962 a truncated state security course was completed for participants from the Republic of Mali.

The course commenced on 10 May 1962 and it was attended by four students who were expected to hold leading positions in the Republic of Mali's state security: [...] ⁴²

The main content of the instruction consisted of specialist issues concerning state security work. In this section, introductory topics were discussed, such as the importance, tasks, and organization of StB [State Security], as well as the entire cycle of individual means of operational work; lines of explanation were provided about all the main capitalist intelligence agencies along with the particularities of working in economic counterintelligence and military counterintelligence, and ultimately the entire cycle of general aspects of state security investigations.

Students were also informatively acquainted with issues concerning forensic technology, including an excursion to the Criminology Institute of the M[ain][D]irectorate of the P[ublic]S[ecurity] ⁴³ and a talk with the chief of the M[ain][D]irectorate of the P[ublic]S[ecurity], as well as issues concerning the organization and protection of state borders, which was supplemented by practical examples directly at state borders.

In addition, the instruction included some political themes, particularly the theory of the state and rule of law, as well as an interpretation of the Republic of Mali's Criminal Code and, to a lesser extent, participants were acquainted with individual types of basic infantry weapons and marksmanship training.

38 Handwritten reference number: 00146/1-62.

39 Stamped: Strictly Confidential.

40 Josef Jindřich (codename "Janouš") (1921–?) was deputy chief of the Ist Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior from October 1, 1960 to June 30, 1964. See *ABS*, f. Osobní evidenční karty příslušníků MV (Personal registration cards of Ministry of the Interior officials), Operativní příloha k osobní evidenční kartě příslušníka MV (Operational appendix to the personal registration card of Ministry of the Interior official) Josef Jindřich.

41 Handwritten note: Printout No. 2.

42 Four illegible names are given.

43 In original Kriminologický ústav Hlavní správy Veřejné bezpečnosti (HS VB).

As far as instruction methodology was concerned, it mostly involved practicing the method for the previous study of materials followed by seminar talks on individual topics. To a lesser extent, it involved the immediate explanation of issues with the current discussion.

The results of the study can be evaluated positively. With their specialist experience and general overview, the four trainees mentioned were at a higher level than most of the other students included in the six-month state security course.

Their discipline and very good study ethic overall also contributed to their mastering all the content and theoretically they acquired the basic principles of state security work to quite a large extent.

In terms of cultural activities, the focus was on watching television programs and particularly films, which were screened twice a week. These were not just entertaining films, but also movies that complemented the course. The trainees also attended a number of cultural and sports events in Prague and participated in the celebrations of May 1 and May 9.⁴⁴ They were also allowed to visit some factories. A trip to Ostrava and a tour of Nová huť K[lementa] G[ottwalda]⁴⁵ made a particularly great impression on them. In general, it's possible to say that the excursions are a very effective contribution on course and they contribute significantly to forming an undistorted opinion on conditions and life in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

All four students also completed a truncated driving course and essentially mastered issues concerning the driving of motorized vehicles.

The group left the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on 30 July 1962.

Chief of ÚŠ MV FED⁴⁶

Lieutenant Colonel J a n o v e c, Ant[onín]

[...]⁴⁷

p.p. Lieutenant Colonel K r o u p a, Vlastimil

Appendices: 4⁴⁸

A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/011, pp. 168–169. Microfiche copy, typescript, two pages.

44 Labor Day celebrations and commemorations marking the end of World War II, which were celebrated along the lines of celebrations for May 9 in the Soviet Union.

45 Klement Gottwald (1896–1953), a politician, the first communist president of Czechoslovakia in 1948–1953.

46 The Ministry of the Interior's Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky Central School.

47 Signature.

48 The appendices are not stored in the files. They probably concerned the personal characteristics of the four course attendees.

Document 4

18 May 1964 – Praha. Report on interior minister Štrougal’s discussions with the Republic of Mali’s state secretary for defense and security Diakité and director of counterintelligence Diallo.

The 1st Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, IVst Division Prague, 18 May 1964

Report

of interior minister Štrougal’s⁴⁹ discussions with the Republic of Mali’s state secretary for defense and security DIAKITÉ and the director of counterintelligence DIALLO, which took place in the interior minist[ry] building in Letná from 11.30 a. m. to 12.30 p. m.

In addition to DIAKITÉ, DIALLO, and c[omrade] interior minister, c[omrades] dep[uty] interior minister Kotal,⁵⁰ Janouš, Rivet,⁵¹ Podhora, and Domkář⁵² also attended the discussions.

The entire meeting was conducted in a friendly manner. State secretary DIAKITÉ once again repeated the reasons that led the Malians to decide to terminate the activities of the Czechoslovak permanent advisory group in Mali at the end of September 1964, as he had stated in discussions at the Czechoslovak embassy in Bamako and as he had communicated in writing to c[omrade] Štrougal in his last letter.

He stressed that he appreciated the results of the work of our advisers and felt that they were our students in the field of security. He pointed out that he was still counting on our assistance in the future albeit in a different form, but he didn’t go into specifics or give any requests or opinions on the form of future cooperation. It was obvious that he did not address this issue as well as how this cooperation would continue.

49 Lubomír Štrougal (born 1924) was interior minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic from June 22, 1961 to April 23, 1965. See CVRČEK, Lukáš: Štrougal Lubomír. In: KALOUS, Jan, et al.: *Biografický slovník představitelů ministerstva vnitra v letech 1948–1989. Ministři a jejich náměstci*, pp. 174–177.

50 Jindřich Kotal (1917–?) was deputy minister of national security (Národní bezpečnost) of the Czechoslovak Republic and interior minister of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic from September 21, 1951 to June 30, 1968. See KALOUS, Jan: Kotal Jindřich. In: KALOUS, Jan, et al.: *Biografický slovník představitelů ministerstva vnitra v letech 1948–1989. Ministři a jejich náměstci*, pp. 102–104.

51 Luděk Tomek (codename “Rivet”) was deputy chief of the IVth department (Afro-Asian department of the Ist Directorate) from February 1, 1964 to May 31, 1969. See ABS, f. Osobní evidenční karty příslušníků MV, Operativní příloha k osobní evidenční kartě příslušníka MV Luděk Tomek.

52 František Dlask (codename “Domkář”) was a senior officer with the IVth department of the Ist Directorate from February 1, 1964 to August 11, 1965. See ABS, f. Osobní evidenční karty příslušníků MV, Operativní příloha k osobní evidenční kartě příslušníka MV František Dlask.

In the course of the meeting, c[omrade] interior minister emphasized several times that the Czechoslovak government and the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior fully understand the political reasons for the step they are taking, and he stressed that we were glad that the Malians came to this conclusion themselves, which was a sign of directness, trust, and openness. For our part, we had counted on such a conclusion, because we did not come as colonizers who would arrive somewhere and strive to remain there permanently. We had not anticipated that it would happen so soon, but if the political situation in Africa was heading in this direction and the Malians were already able to further develop the basic conditions that we had created for them, we can only be satisfied with the results of our assistance.

C[omrade] minister pointed out that we were willing to assist them further, either in training their personnel in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic or in sending other security advisers if they request it, and that all it would take was for them to submit their request to the Czechoslovak embassy in Bamako, which would deliver it to our ministry's leadership in Prague, where it would be examined and accommodated to the best of our abilities.

At the meeting, c[omrade] minister adjusted to the form of negotiation taken by state secretary DIAKITÉ and also did not mention anything specific as regards further forms of cooperation and assistance (despite the fact that we had given c[omrade] minister information on possible concrete requests from the Malians and our opinions on these requests).

During the meeting, c[omrade] minister stated that it was certainly known to DIAKITÉ that our security professors are in the security academy in Kankan, Guinea. He pointed out that we were also negotiating in an appropriate manner there with the leadership of the Guinean Security Ministry on our members not remaining in this school as permanent workers.

A farewell dinner was held on 12 May 1964 in the lounge of the Hotel Internacional with DIAKITÉ, DIALLO, c[omrade] interior min[ister], deputy interior minister c[omrade] Klíma, c[omrades] Houska,⁵³ Novák, Rivet, and Domkář in attendance.

The dinner had friendly character and did not bring any new information or ideas regarding further cooperation between Mali and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the field of security. C[omrade] minister again reiterated our willingness to examine every possible request by them and to accommodate these to the best of our abilities. During the discussion, it was apparent that state secretary DIAKITÉ and counterintelligence director DIALLO were full of praise for the program that had been laid on for their stay in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and c[omrade] minister invited DIAKITÉ to visit again next year on the occasion of the Spartakiads.⁵⁴

53 Josef Houska (1924–?) was chief of the 1st Directorate from November 22, 1961 to July 31, 1968. See ŽÁČEK, Pavel: Houska Josef. In: BÁRTA, Milan, et al.: *Biografický slovník náčelníků operativních správ Státní bezpečnosti v letech 1953–1989*, pp. 293–303.

54 Mass public gymnastics performances, which were held in Czechoslovakia in the years 1955 to 1985. It was always held once every five years, except for 1970 (as a result of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact states in August 1968). The Spartakiad tradition followed on from that of rallies by the Sokol (Falcon) sports organization (held until 1948 and again from 1990) and the First

At the end, c[omrade] minister gave DIAKITÉ the latest Czechoslovak submachine gun (Škorpion) as a gift, saying that we would send it to him in Bamako.

[...]⁵⁵

Captain Domkář

A ÚPN, f. I. správa FMV, reg. č. 11426/301, pp. 221–222. Microfiche copy, typescript, two pages.

55 Workers' Spartakiads, which were organized by Federation of Workers' Sports Associations in 1921 in Maniny, Prague. Spartakiads were also held in the USSR and in the German Democratic Republic. Signature.