

International Conference

For the Homeland, or the Party? East – West Intelligence Rivalry During World War II and the Cold War

3–5 November 2026, Liechtenstein Palace

TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2026

12:00–12:30 Registration

12:30–13:00 Opening speeches

- **Daniel Povolný** (academic guarantor of the conference), historian, ÚSTR
- **Ladislav Kudrna**, Director of Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes
- **Petr Blažek**, Director of the Museum of Memory of the 20th Century
- **Bartosz Dziewanowski-Stefańczyk**, representative of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS)

13:00–13:30 Documentary on Czechoslovak military intelligence (*Vojenské spravodajstvo*)

13:30–13:50 Coffee break

13:50–15:20 Panel 1: Homeland in Peril, 1938–1939

Chair: *Martin Valenta (ÚSTR)*

- **Karel Straka** (Military History Institute Prague, VHÚ): *Shared Views into an Ominous Future – Czechoslovak-French Intelligence Cooperation (1933–1939)*
- **Milan Vyhlídal** (University of Defence, Brno): *The Activities of the 2nd (Intelligence) Department of the Garrison Command of Greater Prague, 1937–1939. A Contribution to the Study of Military Intelligence on the Eve of the Second World War*
- **Oleksandr Pahiria** (Defence Forces of Ukraine): *Cooperation between the Czechoslovak military and the Carpathian Sich to counteract sabotage actions by Poland and Hungary against Carpatho-Ukraine (1938–1939)*
- **Dariusz Dąbrowski, Daniel Koreś** (Institute of National Remembrance, Wrocław, IPN): *The Hinterhoff Affair. New Challenges and the Activities of Polish Intelligence in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in Spring and Summer 1939*

15:20–16:50 Panel 2: Intelligence Behind the Iron Curtain: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation – ENRS (discussion)

Chair: *Sylwia Szyc (IPN)*

- **Florian Banu** (National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives)
- **Elena Grossfeld** (Department of War Studies, King's College London)
- **Tomasz Kozłowski** (IPN and Polish Academy of Sciences, PAN)
- **Douglas Selvage** (Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv and Humboldt University of Berlin)

16:50–17:10 Coffee break

17:10–18:20 Panel 3: On the Road to Unfreedom, 1945–1948; and The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951

Chair: Petr Blažek (Museum of Memory of the 20th Century and ÚSTR)

- **Witold Bagieński** (IPN Archive): *The Polish Civilian Intelligence residentura in Czechoslovakia (1946–1990)*
- **Paweł Piotrowski** (Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences): *A Comparative Study of the Civilian Intelligence Services of Communist Countries. Poland and Czechoslovakia. Structures, Operational Methods and Personnel*
- **Łukasz Zaroda** (Jagiellonian University in Kraków): *From intelligence assets to security threats. Pre-war Polish intelligence and counterintelligence personnel under communist surveillance, 1949–1956*

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026

9:00–10:30 Panel 4: Fighting for Lost Freedom, 1939–1945

Chair: Klára Frúhaufová (ÚSTR)

- **Stanislav Kokoška** (ÚSTR): *Foreign Intelligence Services and the Domestic Resistance in the Czech Lands, 1939–1941*
- **Eduard Stehlík** (Lidice Memorial and ÚSTR): *Czechoslovaks and the SOE, 1940–1945*
- **Martin Posch** (Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences): *Between Alliance and Mistrust: Plans and Limits of SOE–NKVD Cooperation during the Second World War*
- **Jindřich Marek** (VHÚ Prague): *OSS Officer John W. Mowinckel and His Czech Team of Intelligence Agents in Bavaria in 1945*

10:30–10:50 Coffee break

10:50–12:00 Panel 5: Fighting for Lost Freedom, 1939–1945; On the Road to Unfreedom, 1945–1948, and The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951

Chair: Jan Kalous (ÚSTR, Nation's Memory Institute)

- **András Joó** (Office of the Committee of National Remembrance, NEB, Hungary): *Hungary's Peace Overtures and British Intelligence Activities, with Particular Reference to the Special Operations Executive (SOE)*
- **Andrej Danečko** (Civic Association Veterans of VSSm): *The Development and Influence of the UPA Security Services in the Context of Central Europe and the Former Czechoslovakia. Post-war UPA Intelligence Operations on Czechoslovak Territory*
- **Adam Zitek** (National Archives): *Cooperation of the Czechoslovak and Polish Security Forces in Suppressing the Activities of the Polish Resistance on the Territory of Czechoslovakia*

12:00–13:10 Panel 6: The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951, and The Cracked Pillar of the Regime, 1951–1968 I

Chair: Daniel Povolný (ÚSTR)

- **Dalimil Sypták** (Office for Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism, Police of the Czech Republic): *When an Intelligence Service Begins to Serve the Party. Defence Intelligence, Political Repression and the Case of General Heliodor Píka*
- **František Hanzlík** (University of Defence, Brno): *Minister of National Defence Gen. Alexej Čepička and the Military Secret Services (HIS, VVZS, VKR) during His Tenure, 1950–1956*

- **Pavol Pytlík** (Nation's Memory Institute; Department of Archival Studies and Museology, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava): *Organisational and Personnel Changes in the "Slovak" Units of the VKR in Connection with the 1958 Reorganisation of the ČSLA*

13:10–14:10 Lunch break

14:10–15:40 Panel 7: The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951, and The Cracked Pillar of the Regime, 1951–1968 II

Chair: *Daniel Povolný (ÚSTR)*

- **Václav Šipla** (Department of Historical Sciences, Faculty of Arts, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, KHV FF ZČU): *In the Cogs of Post-war Reality: Czechoslovak Military Intelligence Officers in London between Service to the Homeland and the Party's Diktat on the Threshold of the Cold War*
- **Miloslav Púčik** (VHÚ Bratislava): *The Establishment of the Intelligence Directorate – the Era of Gen. Antonín Racek (1951–1959)*
- **Milena Balcová** (VHÚ Bratislava): *The Case of František Tišler and Its Consequences for the Agent Operations of Czechoslovak Military Intelligence*
- **David Jirásek** (Army of the Czech Republic): *Successes of Czechoslovak Military Foreign Intelligence during the Cold War*

15:40–17:10 Panel 8: (Un)Thwarted Hopes for the End of One-Party Rule, 1968–1989, and On the Road to Democracy, 1989–1992

Chair: *Milena Balcová (VHÚ Bratislava)*

- **Petr Blažek** (Museum of Memory of the 20th Century and ÚSTR): *The Intelligence Institute of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff (ZS GŠ)*
- **Tomáš Bandžuch** (Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic): *Radovan Procházka and the Birth of the Intelligence Services of Democratic Czechoslovakia*
- **Jozef Žigraj** (Civic Association "VETERANIS MILITUM NUNTIIUM MUNERIS", OZ VMNM, and Association of Former Intelligence Officers, ABSD): *Military Intelligence in Military Diplomacy on the Road to Democracy*
- **Jaroslav Gofjár** (ABSD): *Military Intelligence at a Crossroads*

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026

9:00–10:30 Panel 9: Fighting for Lost Freedom, 1939–1945, The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951, and The Cracked Pillar of the Regime, 1951–1968

Chair: *Adam Havlík (ÚSTR)*

- **Volodymyr Birchak** (Center for Research on Liberation Movement, Ukraine): *Leonid Kostarev: One of the Founders of the OUN and a Soviet Intelligence Resident in Prague. A History of Betrayal*
- **Tymur Lavrenchuk** (Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine): *How Soviet state security retrospectively explained the delayed deployment of its operational groups in Slovakia in 1944*
- **Vanda Bessenyei** (National Archives of Hungary, Csongrád-Csanád County Archive): *Working Against a Common Enemy – Relations and Cooperation Between the Czechoslovak and Hungarian State Security Services in the Field of Operative Technology*

- **Radosław Szewczyk** (Military Historical Bureau, Poland): *Military Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Polish People's Republic and Operation Danube in 1968*

10:30–11:40 Panel 10: Intelligence Battles of the Cold War, or (Non-)Military Intelligence Operations in a Bipolar World, 1945–1991, in Retrospect I

Chair: Tomáš Malínek (ÚSTR)

- **Leonard Dervishi, Florin Zyberaj** (The Institute for the Study of Communist Crimes and Consequences in Albania, ISKK): *The state security and the consolidation of communist power in Albania, 1945–1950*
- **Pál Germuska** (Office of the Committee of National Remembrance): *Hungarian Intelligence Operations Against Italy – Activities of the Hungarian People's Army's 2nd Directorate in Italy*
- **Przemysław Gasztold** (IPN, War Studies University): *Spy Wars in Accra: Soviet Bloc–Western Intelligence Rivalry in Ghana, 1957–1967*

11:40–12:40 Lunch break

12:40–14:30 Panel 11: Intelligence Battles of the Cold War, or (Non-)Military Intelligence Operations in a Bipolar World, 1945–1991, in Retrospect II

Chair: Kamil Nedvědický (ÚSTR)

- **Mark Kelton** (Five Eyes Group, LLC): *A CIA Case Officer in Communist Prague*
- **Joseph Wippl** (Boston University): *The CIA before and after the Fall of the Berlin Wall*
- **Igor Lukeš** (Boston University): *The Mysterious Case of Vladimir Kazan-Komarek: Shifting Balance of Power During the Cold War, 1950–1967*

14:30–14:50 Coffee break

14:50–16:00 Panel 12: Intelligence Battles of the Cold War, or (Non-)Military Intelligence Operations in a Bipolar World, 1945–1991, in Retrospect III

Chair: Adam Havlík (ÚSTR)

- **Florin Abraham** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism; National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, SNSPA): *The Impact of Nicolae Ceaușescu's Autonomy Policy on Relations with Secret Services within the Soviet Bloc*
- **Luciana Jinga** (Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile): *Allies under Surveillance: Foreign Military Trainees and Romanian Intelligence during the Cold War. During the 1970 s, Romania expanded its military and security cooperation with newly independent states in Africa*
- **Grigory Amnuel** (film director, publicist, politician): *Secret Services of Totalitarian Regimes: A Good Servant but a Very Bad Master*