International Conference

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

PROGRAM 3 – 5 November 2026, Liechtenstein Palace

TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2026

12.00 – 12.30 Registration
12.30 – 13.00 Opening speeches

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

13.00 – 13.30 Documentary on Czechoslovak military intelligence (Vojenské spravodajstvo)

13.30 – 15.00
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 a 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

15.00 – 16.30
Panel č. 2: Intelligence Behind the Iron Curtain: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation – ENRS (debata)

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 a Humbolt University of Berlin)

16.30 – 16.50 Coffee break

ústav pro studium totalitních režimů · Úřad vlády České republiky · Muzeum paměti XX. století · ENRS · ÚDV SKPV Policie ČR · Generální mediální partner: Česká televize

16.50 – 18.00
On the Road to Unfreedom, 1945–1948; and The Bloody Beginnings of Totalitarianism, 1948–1951

Chair: Daniel Povolný (ÚSTR)

- **Witold Bagieński** (Archiv IPN): The Polish Civilian Intelligence residentura in Czechoslovakia (1946–1990)
- **Pawel 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 Univeristy in Kraków) From intelligence assets to security threats. Pre-war Polish intelligence and counterintelligence personnel under communist surveillance, 1949–1956

18.00 Summary of the day – Daniel Povolný

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

9.00 – 10.30
Panel 4: Panel 4: Fighting for Lost Freedom, 1939–1945

Chair: Kamil Nedvědický (ÚSTR)

- **Stanislav Kokoška** 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 Committe 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 Zítek** (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 ČSĽA

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 – 16.50
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 Žigray** (Civic Association "VETERANIS MILITUM NUNTIUM MUNERIS", OZ VMNM, and Association of Former Intelligence Officers, ABSD): Military Intelligence in Military Diplomacy on the Road to Democracy

16.50 Summary of the day – Daniel Povolný

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

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 a 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
- **Pal 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 1970s, Romania expanded its military and security cooperation with newly independent states in Africa
- **Grigory Amnuel** (director of the company „EuroASK„ Polska,filmdirector, publicist, politic): Secret Services of Totalitarian Regimes: A Good Servant but a Very Bad Master

- **16.00** Closing summary – Daniel Povolný

Programme subject to change