

Information about conference Political exile

Nation's Memory Institute (Ústav pamäti národa, Slovakia) and European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (Warsaw) in collaboration with The Institute of National Remembrance (Poland), Study Centre for National Reconciliation (Slovenia) and German Association for East European Studies (Germany) organized international scientific conference *Political exile from Central and Eastern Europe. Motives, strategies, activities and perceptions of East and West, 1945-1989*. Two-day conference took place at the Historical building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava in November 19 – 20, 2013.

The international scientific conference has examined the political exile organisation from countries of the former Soviet bloc. Program of the conference was divided into six panels. 1st panel included three keynote lectures of the conference. First keynote lecture was given by prof. A Ross Johnson from Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Hoover Institution, U.S.A., who focus on the media activities from East European Political Emigrants through US Perspective. His lecture was followed by speech of Mr. Sławomir Łukasiewicz from Polish Institute of National Remembrance, who examine main emigrant, waives from Central and Eastern European countries and also discussed dominant motives for the emigration. Last lecture from the keynotes was speech of Prof. Robert Letz from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, who deals with the Slovak political exile and gave overview about all relevant representatives, groups and their activities.

2nd panel was dedicated to the political concepts that were created in the exile. This panel starts with the lecture of Peter Jašek from Slovak Nation's Memory Institute, who introduced activities of the most important Slovak exile organization, Slovak World Congress. Milena Przybysz, historian from Polish Institute of National Remembrance, deals with the Polish emigrant Jerzy Giedroc and the conceptions about the role of Roman Catholic Church in Poland under Communism, how they was reflected by the society of Polish in Paris. Mateja Čoh Kladnik from Slovenian Study Centre for National Reconciliation examine in her lecture Slovene emigration in Austria early after WWII, which primarily fights against communist regime established in Slovenia after war. Last speech of the 2nd panel was delivered by Mišo Dokmanovič from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, who deals with national statehood as a goal of the Macedonian political emigration and demonstrated it on the case of the Liberation Committee of Macedonia. Commentator of first panel was Jakub Tyskiewicz from Poland.

After short break negotiations of the conference continued by the 3rd panel. First lecture in this panel was given by Filip-Lucian Iorga from University of Bucharest in Romania, who deals with the descendants of the Romanian Nobility, who faced large scale of repressions and some of them were forced to emigrate. In exile, they joined already established Romanian exile organization in their fight against communism. Andrzej Mietkowski from Poland examines (partially based on his own experiences) several aspects of the Polish political exile, including their activities against Jaruzelski's regime in several Western countries. Adam Kola from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun focused his lecture on the Polish Left-wing Exile Intellectuals in exile, who fight not only against the communist regime in Poland, but also against another Polish exile groups. Finally, Bernd Florath from The Office of the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the Former German Democratic Republic in Germany deals with the German emigration, which was really specific case in all communist countries under the Soviet rule. Commentator of this panel was Raphael Krüger from Germany.

After this panel Roundtable talk with witnesses was scheduled. Guests of the Roundtable talk were Wlodek Goldkorn, Polish journalist living and publishing in Italy; František Mikloško, Slovak Catholic dissident and activist of clandestine church and Dušan Tóth, former General Secretary of the Slovak World Congress. Discussion was focus on the contacts between political exile and dissidents, but also another important issues were examined.

Second day of the conference begun by 4th panel focused on the media and information channels in the exile. Pavol Holeštiak from Catholic University in Ružomberok brought overview of Slovak exile media from all western countries. Prokop Tomek from The Institute of Military History in Prague deals with reflexion on the Radio Free Europe broadcasting in communist Czechoslovakia during communism and final lecture given by Jan Cholinsky from Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes introduce Czech exile journalist Rudolf Kopecký and his political views and ideological conflicts with different representatives of Czech political exile. Commentator of this panel was prof. Alexandar Jakir from Croatia.

5th panel of the conference started with presentation of Beatrice Scutaru from Universities of Angers and Iasi in France and Romania. She deals with the role of the Romanian exile groups on the process of change views on the Ceausescu's Romania in France during 1980s. Prof. Anna Siwik from AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow examine ideological dilemmas of Polish socialists in exile, which were marked by the Cold

War and development of the socialist parties in Western Europe. Bernd Robionek from Humboldt-University of Berlin deals with Changing Attitudes towards Communism in the Croatian political exile after WWII. Last speech of this panel was given by Yevhen Rogovyy from Kharkov National University of the V. N. Karazin in Ukraine, who deals with Ukrainian Political Exile in the West and stressed important role of this exile – to show crimes of communism in Western parties. Commentator of this panel was Filip-Lucian Iorga from Romania.

Last panel of the conference was focused on the role of the Security Services in the issue of political exile. Richard Cummings deals with the activities of Radio Free Europe and how USA supported it through CIA. Zsuzsanna Borvendég from Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Hungary examine activities of the Hungarian State Security against Hungarian political emigration. Prof. Alexandar Jakir from University of Split in Croatia bring the light into the role of Yugoslav Secret police fighting against Croatian emigration during communism. Last speech of the panel and whole conference was presented by David Svoboda from Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague, who deals with the view of American CIA on the Ukrainian exile in Germany after the WWII. Commentator of this panel was Matej Medvecký from Slovakia.

Each panel and commentaries were followed by discussions focusing on the presented lectures and deepening knowledge