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# Extremism and its Development in the Czech Republic in 2001

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# 1. Introduction

The “Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic” (hereinafter “ the Report”) was drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior along with the Security Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Justice, although the representatives of the following ministries and organisations also participated in its preparation: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office, the Foreign Relationship and Information Office, the Czech Government Human Rights Council (the Human Rights Department of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic), the Czech Government Council for Nationalities, and the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs (the former Inter-departmental Commission for Roma Community Affairs).

**The Report is the consensual view of state administration bodies on the issue in question.**

The objective of the Report is to provide a summary of information on extremist issues (and related issues) in the Czech Republic and the impact these had on internal security and public order in 2001, and to assess the efficiency of measures adopted by Government Resolutions No. 720/199, No. 684/2000, No. 498/2001, and 903/2001. An evaluation of how the assignments contained in the Annexes to the Government Resolutions have been met is included in the individual chapters of this Report. The wording of any assignment is always stated in the relevant footnote.

## 2. Term Definition

The term **extremism** should be understood as: those activities having, as a rule, a clear ideological context which deviates markedly from the rule of law and constitutional law, shows explicit elements of intolerance, and attacks democratic constitutional principles as defined in the Czech constitutional order. These principals are as follows:

- respect for the rights and freedoms of men and citizens (Article 1 of the Constitution);
- a sovereign, unified, and democratic state of law (Article 1 of the Constitution);
- the inadmissibility of change to the essential requisites of the democratic state of law (Article 9(2) of the Constitution);
- that people are a source of all state power (Article 2 of the Constitution);
- the free competition of political parties respecting fundamental democratic principles and rejecting violence as a means for the implementation of their interests (Article 5 of the Constitution);
- that decisions of the majority respect the protection of minorities (Article 6 of the Constitution); and
- that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security (Articles 1 and 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms).

Extremist attitudes can transform into destructive activities, and whether directly or in terms of their long-term consequences, act against the existing democratic political and economic system, i.e. they endeavour to replace the democratic system with an antagonistic

one (a totalitarian or authoritative regime, dictatorship, or anarchy). This kind of activity is dealt with by the Security Intelligence Service under Act 153/1994 Coll. pursuant to Sec. 5 (a).

Thus the Report uses the unified term of extremism for activities aimed at the destruction of a constitutional establishment and the values which such a system protects. Extremism usually uses the following instruments: historical revisionism, social demagogy, activism, verbal and physical violence against its opponents and against clearly defined social groups, and conspiracy theories. World literature on politics usually distinguishes left-wing from right-wing extremism, as well as religious, environmental and (in some cases) nationalistic extremism (regional extremism).<sup>1</sup> The latter three forms have not appeared in a clear, unambiguous form in the Czech Republic<sup>2</sup>. **Explanation will therefore focus on right-wing extremists (inspired by and predominantly using national, racial, and ethnic hatred, and demonstrating their sympathy with historical fascism and Nazism) and left-wing extremists (motivated mainly by social, anti-cultural hatred and having a liking for historical communism and anarchy).**

Although in an ideal right-left model, left-wing and right-wing extremism represent opposite poles, the reality is more complicated since a role is also played by the social, cultural and historical context in the background of which there are manifestations of those ideal types. This leads to the fact that these opposite poles can show manifestations in individual areas of very different intensities of anti-constitutional conduct, and people can perceive such socially dangerous conduct with a varying sensitivity.

Further to this, the Report contains an evaluation of the impact of extremism on crime and thus deals with crimes arising from extremism. **By the term “crime with an extremist context” this Report means such types of crime which are reasonably judged to have been motivated or influenced by extremist attitudes.** As an alternative the term "crime motivated by racial, national or other social hate" can be used.<sup>3</sup> This is understood as conduct which fulfils the recognised conditions of the factual basis of a crime or misdemeanour, and is *a priori* motivated by hatred arising of the race, nationality, religion, class or another social group to which the attacked belongs. A specific example that could be included in this crime category is a crime against the symbols or representatives of an existing social system if it is *a priori* motivated by hatred against it. The following crimes should be considered:

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<sup>1</sup> Certain scientists describe national extremism as ethnic extremism. See for example Zariski R., “Ethnic Extremism Among Ethno-Territorial Minorities in Western Europe: Dimensions, Causes and Institutional Responses“. In: Comparative Politics 21 (April 1989), pp. 253 - 272.

<sup>2</sup> National (regional) extremism could appear in the Czech Republic, allegedly in the form of the so-called Moravian Provincial Army or Moravian Army of Liberation which sent letters containing threats of terrorist attacks if Moravia is not separated. In February 2001, according to its proclamation, the so-called Moravian Army of Liberation at the general meeting of its commanders, held on “ *the day of the Victorious February which deprived Moravia of its rights*”, decided to “*declare a patriotic war for a fully independent Moravia and for withdrawing occupation bodies from the country*”. Operations were to be conducted mainly in Bohemia. The proclamation contained also Slav and anti-German appeals. Moravian soldiers should not have respect for Czech commanders, and the Moravian police was challenged not to intervene against citizens “*who decide to stand against occupants*“ and to “*suppress all pro-Bohemian fascist groups*“. Moravian “letter terrorists” have not yet conducted any real act of violence. The **existence of the alleged Moravian Provincial Army or Moravian Army of Liberation is not satisfactorily justified by evidence and the whole case can be only “focused misinformation”**. See also M. Mareš, Moravismus a extremismus, <http://www.iips.cz/cisla/texty/komentare/moravismus401.html> (Central European Political Studies).

<sup>3</sup> Similar to “hate crimes“, which is a term used in Anglo-American criminology.

- public menace,
- violence against a group of people or an individual,
- defamation of a nation, race, or conviction,
- incitement of national or racial hatred,
- breach of peace,
- murder,
- injury to health,
- restriction of personal freedom,
- extortion,
- restriction of the freedom of religious worship,
- violation of domestic freedom,
- violation of the freedom of association and assembly,
- damage to another's property,
- genocide,
- support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing peoples' rights and freedoms,
- persecution of the population.

The Amendment to Criminal Code No. 405/200 Coll. was adopted in 2000. This amendment came into force on 1 December 2000 and it altered the provisions of Sections 260 (1) and 261, and in addition a new provision, Section 261(a), was inserted (it introduced punishment for so-called Jachymov and Auswitz lies).<sup>4</sup>

It is necessary to state explicitly that offenders of crimes described in this Report definitely are not automatically supporters of extremist organisations. On the contrary, in the majority of such crimes it is not possible to prove any relationship between the crime with such motivation and any certain organisation ranked within the extremist spectrum.

So-called crime with an extremist context, as it is described herein, is very often a consequence of a certain extreme situation and in a number of cases it can be objectively doubted whether the attack was really motivated by hatred against a certain group of people or whether it was just an external manifestation of poor interpersonal relations in the context of the situation. Therefore the Report may include as extremist crimes also offences where an extremist motivation cannot be excluded without any doubt, since even criminal offences assumed to be extremist crimes can negatively impact the stability of society.

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<sup>4</sup> The further Amendment to the Criminal Code was passed in the Chamber of Deputies in 20002 – see Chapter 7 “Activities of the Government of the Czech Republic”.

## 3. Extremism and its Development in the Czech Republic in 2001<sup>5</sup>

### 3.1 General Characteristics<sup>6</sup>

In 2001, as in the previous years, the following extremist movements were active in the Czech Republic:

- Right-wing extremist groups, i.e. neo-Nazi and fascist groups as well as groups showing their hatred for a certain nation; and
- Left-wing extremist groups and organisations (anarcho-autonomous groups, neo-Bolsheviks, and groups or organisations showing their support and sympathy).

**The following text contains the names of actual organisations, including ones registered with the Ministry of the Interior, which form by their activities or personal links a basis (a hot-bed) of logistics and political support for Czech extremism and its criminal manifestations. Unfortunately, in some cases the respective state authority cannot intervene with the position and activities of such organisations as it should under the rule of law applying to civic associations, political parties and political movements. Activists of extremist organisations are well oriented in the legal environment under which they exists, and they endeavour to present themselves legally to a great extent, i.e. they do not spread their hate directly but they use carefully chosen demagogy just “on the edge of the law” (see the extracts in the text).<sup>7</sup>**

**To directly name actual, existing organisations is of a predominantly preventative nature (both towards the public and towards those organisations’ members), and therefore such publication should not be perceived as scandalising those organisations, nor as an effort to criminalise their members. The main intent is to involve all**

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<sup>5</sup> The Security Intelligence Service has constantly fulfilled the task contained in item 5 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 720/1999 (“To create an updated list of individual extremist organisations operating in the Czech Republic, including an estimation of the numbers of their members and supporters, and to monitor their co-operation with foreign extremist groups”), as well as the task on the grounds of Government Resolution No. 648/2000 imposed on the Director of the Security Intelligence Service and on the Minister of the Interior (“To submit summary information within the Report on the Issue of Extremism on findings concerning civic associations, political parties and political movements, as well as other organisations registered with the Ministry of the Interior or the Ministry of Culture respectively, if their activities show extremist manifestations or if their activities directly contradict any laws. Furthermore the Director of the Security Intelligence Service has met, on an ongoing basis, the tasks included in item 2 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903/2001 (to draw up, submit to the Minister of the Interior, and regularly update a) lists of right-wing extremist music bands operating in the Czech Republic including a list of foreign right-wing extremist music bands which have performances in the Czech Republic; b) to detail information on all available findings relating to the composition of such bands especially on their links and contacts; c) documents and information on extremist entities mainly those mentioned in the Report on Extremists Issues in the Czech Republic in 2000 (especially ideological sources, membership base, and foreign contacts including information not officially presented”)

<sup>6</sup> Scientists in the field of politics working at the Department of Political Sciences and at the International Institute of Political Sciences and the Institute of Strategic Studies of Masaryk University in Brno deal with the issues of extremism and terrorism (M. Mareš, M. Bastl, M. Strmiska and others).

<sup>7</sup> In no event is this situation specific only to the Czech Republic, which can be proven by using findings from foreign countries. There are right-wing extremist political parties or various organisations in a number of European countries. To this end we can mention for example the British National Party (BNP) in Great Britain, the Front National (FN) in France or the Nationaldemokratischen Partei Deutschlands (NPD) in Germany.

**organisations where there is well-founded suspicion of extremism in the sense in which this expression is defined and used in the Report. Merely mentioning a registered organisation in the report on extremism does not have any legal consequences as such.**

Furthermore, this approach is in compliance with the Conclusions of the Committee for Eliminating Racial Discrimination (CERD), adopted together with the third and fourth Periodical Reports of the Czech Republic, because in terms of its nature such an approach can be considered **a targeted preventative measure**.<sup>8</sup> It takes into account the necessity to pay attention to current, as well as newly established, organisations, in light of their respective unlawful activities and subject to the fact that such activities could create a background for very dangerous crimes committed by individuals. In addition to the fact that such criminal offences committed by individuals are, no doubt, very dangerous manifestations of extremism, the inflow of support as a potentially wide voter base for extremist organisations is at least equally serious. These are mainly organisations which are trying and will try in the future to enter the political scene in the Czech Republic. An approach should be found to help Czech citizens in their basic understanding of the extremist scene. One way of doing this is, using sufficient information, to build a barrier against the inflow of new members, and also supporters, of the extremist scene.<sup>9</sup>

## **3.2 Right-Wing Extremist Scene**

The development of right-wing extremism in the Czech Republic in 2001 showed obvious efforts to enter the political scene. From this point of view, an essential role was played by the Patriotic Republic Party (PRP) registered with the Ministry of the Interior since 1991, mainly through its new members transferring their allegiance from the registered civic associations, the National Alliance and, an unregistered organisation, the National Resistance. The registered Patriotic Front took an active role as well.

The right-wing extremist scene continued their qualitative changes, however it had to fight with the different views of various entities. In spite of the efforts taken by PRP activists this political platform has not yet become a unifying element of right-wing oriented citizens. Neither the Patriotic Front, nor by it the initiated political party National Unification have become entities able to unify the right-wing extremist scene.

During the year 2001, the monitored individual organisations prepared a range of joint actions or participated in events organised by another right-wing extremist organisation.

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<sup>8</sup> See **Conclusions of the Committee for Eliminating Racial Discrimination, The Czech Republic, Comments and Recommendations**, (point 11) adopted on the 1419<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11 August 2000. This approach was also reflected by the Government in its Resolution No. 1225 from 15 November 1999 concerning the Report on Meeting the Commitments of the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This Report deals with civic associations which are suspected by the Security Intelligence Service of performing subversive activities. Many of their attitudes can be, anyway, substantiated from open sources, internal materials, etc.

<sup>9</sup> This text does not contain a separate chapter showing the reactions of Czech right-wing as well as left-wing extremists on the terrorist attack against the US on 11 September 2001. These are mentioned in relation to individual organisations. Reactions of the Czech extremist scene, both left-wing and right-wing, were not projected to events comparable with some cases reported from the EU Member States. See Country Reports Covering the period 12<sup>th</sup> September - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001 published by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia - EUMC.

In 2001, several concerts of right-wing extremist skinhead musical bands were held along with international participation, foreigners were among the performers as well as forming part of the audience. In comparison with the year 2000 there was a higher number of listeners arriving from Germany. An increased interest in concerts held in the Czech Republic resulted, *inter alia*, from the fact that the Blood&Honour organisation, which used to organise the majority of concerts, was banned by the state authorities in Germany. The following music bands either directly participated in the concerts held in the Czech Republic or at least were invited to participate: domestic bands: AGRESE 95 (i.e. AGRESSIVITY 95), S.A.D., HLAS KRVE (i.e. VOICE OF BLOOD), RAGNAROK, KELTSKÝ ŠTÍT (i.e. CELTIC SHIELD), BLIZARD, ORTEL (i.e. CONDEMNATION), REICHENBERG, and EXCALIBUR; foreign bands: JUDEN MORD (Slovakia), A.M.F. (former name was ARCHIVUM, Hungary), RAZOR'S EDGE (Great Britain), FRONTSCHWEIN (Germany), STREGESCHWAGEN (Germany), WESTSACHEN GESOCK (Germany), JUSTÍCIA (Slovakia), D.M.S. (Slovakia), DEATH WARRANT (Slovakia), ANCESTORS (Slovakia).

### **3.2.1 Open Neo-Nazi and Fascist Organisations and Associations**

#### **National Resistance (NR)**

This unregistered organisation was established in the second half of 1999 after an unsuccessful attempt to register the civic association Junge Nationaldemokratern (JN). The activities, objectives and strategies of the National Resistance are based on the activities of the Blood&Honour Division.

After its establishment the NR more and more often began to organise demonstrations rallies and protest marches, and in this field they actively co-operated with other right-wing entities, such as the registered organisations Patriotic Front and the currently non-existing National Alliance. Aggressive individuals rank among the activists of this organisation. They seek conflicts, attack people in the streets, and master various kinds of fighting styles.

The members of NR, who consider themselves to be "authentic skinheads", have taken over the role of former Blood&Honour D.B. in the field where they operate. Apart from organising concerts, some of which are very profitable, and the publishing and distributing of CDs of skinhead bands, they also deal with the sale of trademark clothes and clothing accessories. It is not known how much of the profit is used exclusively for the need of this organisation. However, NR members are involved other activities as well.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Activities in 2001**

The National Resistance undoubtedly participated and still participates in the activities of the Right Alternative political party (formerly PRP, which publicly presented itself as the National Social Block (NSB)). Its efforts to produce and distribute CDs with right-wing extremist recordings continued. Contact of its leaders with similarly oriented persons and organisations abroad, for example in Finland and Great Britain, are reported.

Activists of a neo-Nazi organisation, the National Resistance Prague, began to prepare protest actions against the NATO meeting which is to be held in Prague in November 2002. For this purpose they considered creating a web-site through which members of foreign right-wing extremist organisation would be informed and afterwards involved. In terms of such preparation they also planned to address as soon as possible persons and organisations with whom the National Resistance endeavours to co-operate, or who it seeks their support from.

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<sup>10</sup> The National Resistance is allegedly linked to the activities of Anti-Antifa in the Czech Republic. Anti-Antifa concentrates on making lists of enemies of the ultra right-wing, and their liquidation

*A key role in such activities could be played by Filip Vavra, a NR leader, who was provably inspired by the example of left-wing extremist protests against the IMF/WN Meeting held in Prague in 2000 and he, as the first in the Czech Republic, is involved in legal public right-wing extremist manifestations. It might be assumed with the highest probability that right-wing extremist protests against the NATO meeting will be organised as non-violence actions mainly focused on making right-wing organisations “more visible”.*

### **Defence of the Nation (DN)**

An unregistered organisation which came into existence in the skinhead environment operates in the Mlada Boleslav District. Since 1999 it has been trying to become registered with the Ministry of the Interior.

At the very beginning it considered itself to be a successor of a rebellious organisation of the same name from the period of Nazi occupation. With the gradual change of the Defence of Nation's leaders it has shifted ideologically from Czech nationalism towards neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism.

This organisation publishes a journal called Defender.

In 2001 a Mlada Boleslav group of DN organised a concert of right-wing extremist bands in the village of Stremice, which was preceded by a pious event at the grave of a right-wing extremist killed by a left-wing extremist in self-defence. DN members then, during 2001, participated in other actions held by other right-wing extremist organisations.

### **Movement for National Unity (MNU)**

An unregistered organisation showing fascist elements was established in Brno at the beginning of 1996. This fascist organisation openly models itself on the former Franco and Mussolini regimes. The MNU manifesto also involves anti-Semitism and racism. Its publicly declared objectives are “corporate democracy”, a ban on abortion and pornography, radical solutions to the drug problem and manifestations of anarchy, and halting the inflow of economic refugees from the third world and their settling in the Czech Republic. They also reject the Czech Republic's efforts towards integration. This movement shows sympathy for an international organisation called the International Third Position (ITP).

### **Activities in 2001**

In 2001, the MNU co-operated mainly with the National Patriotic Congregation (NPC) and they were involved in protest events aimed especially against the Czech Republic's integration into the EU. One of the reasons why the MNU is against the Czech Republic's joining the EU is EU immigration policy, according to which Europe should accept about 160 million immigrants within the next 50 years. According to the MNU, several nations and races will be merged into one. *“Each nation possesses its unique character, history and culture, and I believe that it is unnatural either according to natural laws or to the Law of God ... to mix up and integrate nations”*, one of the MNU leaders said in relation to this topic.

### **Knights of Solar Circle (KSC)**

An unregistered organisation with its seat in the North Moravian Region. It has supporters in the region of North Moravia and Silesia, and in the Czech Republic as a whole, and in Slovakia as well as in other countries. The largest part of its supporters is registered in the Karvina District, followed by the Opava and Ostrava Districts. The activities of the KSC show strong elements of racism and anti-Semitism.

The KSC was established in 2001 as an association helping imprisoned skinhead movement members. Its assistance lies in providing prisoners' addresses to other skinhead movement members, who then send them letters and support their ideological conviction whilst in prison. In addition, the organisation arranges collections of money to pay attorneys.

The KSC has links to similar associations operating in Slovakia under the name of "the Clan of Slovak Knights – CSK", utilising the same means as the KSC to enforce their aims.

The publishing house **Dr. Goebbels Press** publishes neo-Nazi materials based especially on the history of the so-called Third Empire. The objective of this publishing house is the production and distribution of right-wing extremist documents and press materials, while funds raised from such activities should be used, according to the KSC member declarations, predominantly for the support of PWOs – "prisoners of war".<sup>11</sup> The majority of press materials published under the auspices of the KSC contain the list of imprisoned persons, lawfully sentenced for committing criminal offences of an extremist nature.

In this manner the KSC publishes a number of publications in the form of 'ZINEs or CDs. The most widely spread is **INNOCENT** 'zine, an aggressive publication promoting German Nazism. Its imprint says that, although "*publishers are aware of the fact that they are breaking several Acts of the Czech Republic*", they do not mind however, since "*they do not recognise this state*" and in their publishing activities "*they are governed only by the intra-party instruction of Josef Göbbels from 1927 for publishing press materials*". On its pages they render homage to Nazi leaders, described as defenders of the white race, they publish articles dealing with the history of individual Nazi military groupings, along with articles aimed at racism and anti-Semitism. Deformation of history and manipulation of historical facts serve to justify Nazism. These documents are distributed in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia. To spread these materials the KSC organisation previously used PO Boxes, whereas nowadays it utilises Internet domains and e-mail addresses, some of which are outside the Czech Republic.

The KSC also established a separate, parallel organisation for women called "Arian Women". However, according to a declaration made by the KSC, this organisation is not managed by the KSC itself, but by the so-called "principal party ideologist".

A security risk of the aforementioned activities lies particularly in the potential of Dr. Goebbels press publishing house to spread and co-ordinate right-wing extremist ideology in the Czech Republic with a certain overlap abroad.

*Currently police experts are investigating the methods of distribution, printing machine location and other circumstance related to the subject matter.*

## **AHNENERBE**<sup>12</sup>

On the Internet there are also web-sites of neo-Nazi organisations known as AHNENERBE (HERITAGE OF KITH AND KIN). The appellation of the organisations demonstratively expresses a principle of kin relations which was represented in Nazism, and represents today for neo-Nazis the reason for their association.

*„AHNENERBE is a national socialist organisation, the aim of which is mainly popular cultural activity, i.e. to publish and distribute pro-Arian journals, publications and*

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<sup>11</sup> P.O.W. is an abbreviation formed from the English words 'prisoners of war', which has been used by KSC members. According to KSC members the assistance was, inter alia, addressed to Vladimír Skoupy.

<sup>12</sup> AHNENERBE was the name of the "research institute" established by Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler. This "Society for Studies of Ancestors' Heritage" dealt, apart from occultism and astrology, intensively with archaeological research. H. Himmler was convinced that, with the help of various methods which led into experiments tested on concentration camp prisoners, the origin of the Nordic race would be revealed

*other documents. Our creed is "Am Ende der Sieg!" This simple slogan explicitly expresses everything which is the objective of our work, which we believe in, and which we struggle for. We do not conceal our conviction and we openly say that we recognise only one political system and one leader for whose bequest we are willing to sacrifice all! Heil Hitler!"*

The above-mentioned web-sites make available neo-Nazi journals such as *AHNENERBE No 1* and *DIE TREUE No 1*, *88 LEGAL ACTS from David Lane*, *The Gallery of Rudolf Hesspaintings* and *WHITE POWER poetry*.

Persons who are involved in activities of AHNENERBE use nicknames Wilhelm von Ahnenerbe, Siegfried von Ahnenerbe, Tristan von Ahnenerbe, and Elmar von Ahnenerbe.

## **NORDFRONT**

In the Internet there were also web-sites of an association known as Nordfront. The web-sites offer to interested parties NS games, MP3, war artefacts, 'zines, comics or information on Celts and Vikings, and the opportunity to publish articles and opinions. The sites presented especially an article dealing with the tactics of the fight of "patriots" under the name "**Options of Our Current Combat**".<sup>13</sup> The author evaluates various approaches according to the following variations:

- to get rid of any similarity with skinheads, to change the style of clothing and presentation of themselves;
- "to mitigate" opinions presented, to talk about problems lying heavy on people in a given region, mainly about social or ecological issues, to offer solutions and attract people to their side, which represents the optimal yet long-term variation of the "struggle";
- to lead violent combat according to example of The Order, which, however, does not seem to be optimal in given circumstances and could lead to the "definitive end of all pro-national organisation which would be the end of hopes";<sup>14</sup>
- to infiltrate police forces and to put out feelers as to what and when an intervention against N.S groups and individuals is being prepared, and to inform them;
- to bribe policemen, while concentrating on policemen working in anti-extremist groups, and to gather findings on their weaknesses (alcohol, prostitutes, gambling etc);
- to infiltrate various "fighters for human rights" as for example people from the Antifascist Action, etc.

The statement is finished by the following words:

*"These are roughly all alternatives which came across my mind. The time will show which is the most beneficial, however the truth is only one and, THE TRUTH WILL WIN over this rotten system which denies the fundamental principles of reason and belief. **The day will come when traitors appearing every day on television will be hanged and their children will be put under interdict for the crimes committed by their parents. We perhaps will not be alive to see it to but our successors will and therefore do not give up our struggle, not to be lost, and do not be spoken about as about those who rather did not***

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<sup>13</sup> Downloaded on 22 February 2002.

<sup>14</sup> Concerning this variant the author points out the different situation between Czech and American organisations, problems with raising funds for weapons and building training camps. In addition he/she states: "If despite these facts somebody would like to prepare for armed struggle, I recommend contacting some organisation in the former USSR where are training experts such as Afghan veterans or KGB spies who will initiate you into the secrets of enciphering and diversion. There is an advantage of the high corruption of civil servants who, for a dollar given underhand, cease to see anything. I do not see this variant as appropriate, however the time will show".

*see and did not hear. It is only up to us how we will struggle, stand up and FIGHT, otherwise we will de cease. 14 WORDS -whitecop-“.*<sup>15</sup>

**Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei/Auslands- und Aufbauorganisation (NSDAP/AO) – the National Socialist German Workers Party /Foreign and Fundamental Organisation and the National Socialist Education Centre (NSEC)<sup>16</sup>**

At the turn of 2000/2001, documents drawn up by the NSDAP/AO were disclosed on the Internet in the Czech language<sup>17</sup> **So far three volumes of Internet NS News have been published.** They contain articles on historical personalities of Nazism and reports dealing with national-socialism, particularly with NSDAP/AO.

On 19 March 2002 the Nationalist Socialist Education Centre - NSEC became an official ally of NSDAP/AO which from this date has been in charge of the Czech section of the organisation.<sup>18</sup> The Czech section can obviously become one of the most important distributors of neo-Nazi materials in the Czech Republic under circumstances when financial support is from the US and Western Europe. Among books offered on their web-sites for download there are “Mein Kampf” by Adolf Hitler, “White Power” by G.L. Rockwell, a leader of the American Nazi party, “Protocols of Zionist Wise Men” “Anglo – Jew Alliance” by Wolf Meyer Christian, or “An International Jew” by Henry Ford.

In connection with unregistered groups we can mention supporters of the “Czech Fascist” movement recruiting mainly from skinheads. Their part is active in North Moravia particularly in the Karvina (about 30 persons) and Jeseník (about 39 persons) Districts. This “movement” does not have a fixed membership base. Ideologically it professes national-socialism. It speaks about second-rate races (Roma and Asians) and enforces Czech nationalism. It uses symbols of the Third Empire and three sevens in a circle representing South African apartheid.

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<sup>15</sup> Downloaded on 22 February 2002.

<sup>16</sup> The National Socialist Education Center (NSEC) was established on 25 September 2000 after “the opinion was reached that the education of today’s supporters of National Socialism and Arians in general is one of the most important elements required for the final victory of our Arian Race”, downloaded on 3 June 2002.

<sup>17</sup>Downloaded on 31 May 2002. Organisation Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei/Auslands - und Aufbauorganisation (NSDAP/AO) was established in the USA in 1972 by an American citizen of German origin – Gary Rex Lauck, who uses his German first name Gerhard. He was born in 1952 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and since his childhood he has inclined to Nazism. AO abbreviation meant only “Auslandsorganisation” (foreign organisation) and related to his operations in the USA. After an illegal network of this organisation was built in Germany it gained another significance, namely “Aufbauorganisation” (fundamental organisation). NSDAP/AO requires permitting NSDAP as a political party which would be eligible to participate in the German elections. Its target is to establish a national-socialist state in a free, sovereign and newly unified Great German Empire, and to achieve a new order on a racial basis in the whole Arian world. These objectives should be achieved mainly through the distribution of press materials, especially a journal called NS Kampf published since 1973. Recently also by providing Internet services including the spread of neo-Nazi computer games or by operating Internet radio broadcasting. G. Lauck has focused for quite a long time predominantly on Germany, however currently he is distributing materials in many other “Arian” languages, among others, in Japanese. Thanks to orthodox Nazism and an unwillingness to adapt Hitler’s original thoughts to nowadays reality, NSDAP/AO is often perceived by right-wing extremists in the USA as well as in Germany as “Action – unable curiosity” without any actual influence. Distributed materials, as for example stickers with a Nazi flag and signs as “Wir sind wieder da!” are quite popular souvenirs for young neo-Nazis.

<sup>18</sup> See Nazi Lauck NSDAP-AO NS News Bulletin 106- Czech version. Downloaded on 3 June 2002 from the Internet.

## **Blood & Honour Division Bohemia (B & H DB)**<sup>19</sup>

### **Bohemia Hammer Skins (BHS)**

Unregistered skinhead organisations.

In 2001, no notices of organised activities carried out by neo-Nazi groups Blood&Honour DB and Bohemia Hammer Skins as Czech branches of supranational organisations were registered in the Czech Republic. This was related both to the dampening of their activities in previous years and changes in the right-wing extremist scene itself.

**Blood&Honour DB** is currently a less important organisation of which its associates are only several persons, without any larger influence on right-wing extremists. Some members of this organisation partially participate in commercial activities carried out by the National Resistance.

## **3.2.2 Organisations Registered or Applying for Registration with the Ministry of the Interior**

### **The Right Alternative (RA), formerly the Patriotic Republic Party (PRP), presenting itself publicly in 2001 as the “National Social Block” (NSB)**

The current name of this political party was registered by the Ministry of the Interior on 29 November 2001.

**Chairman:** Jan Kopal<sup>20</sup>

Honourable Chairman: Miroslav Rousek, a former immigrant, current publisher of a regional newspaper – Nachodsky Necas

Secretary: Ludek Hlinka

Vice-Chairwoman of Political Board: Alena Muckova

Vice-Chairman of Finance: David Kocour

**Registered Seat:** Praha

**Local organisations** of the Right Alternative worked, as of the end of 2001, in the following municipalities:

Prague, Valasske Mezirici, Veseli nad Moravou, Karlovy Vary, Svratouch, Jablonec nad Nisou, Hradek nad Nisou, Klenci pod Cerchovem, Rakovnik, Olomouc, Zabreh na Morave, Jihlava, Pilsen, Usti nad Labem, Ceske Budejovice, Most, Tanvald, Roudnice nad Labem, As, Vsetin, Pribram, Litomysl, Litvinov, Pisek, Bystrice nad Pernstejnem, Chomutov, and Liberec.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> This is not only an English name of a group or a movement but it is an **appellation which intentionally uses one of the principal slogans of Hitlerjugend**, which is “*Blood and Honour*”.

<sup>20</sup> In March 2002 J. Kopal was “removed” from the office of chairman; he left the RA and became a member of the National Democratic Party for which he was nominated in the June 2002 elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. He was allegedly substituted by L. Hlinka. With regards to the removal of J. Kopal from his office, other changes were made in the Right Alternative management. After Kopal’s removal the party co-operated with Witiko-Bund, the most radical part of the Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft organisation, the name of which is usually not precisely translated into the Czech language – it reads the German-Sudeten Regional Association, whereas the translation is the **German-Sudeten Provincial Retinue**, which more precisely expresses its traditional ideological colonial thirst for fighting. Moreover, probably as a consequence of the change in the post of chairman, the Right Alternative did not submit its lists of candidates for the June 2002 elections to the Chamber of Deputies.

<sup>21</sup> The PA managements states that they have local organisations in 40 municipalities of the Czech Republic.

### Published Periodicals

- official periodical NÁRODNĚ SOCIÁLNÍ VÝZVA (National Social Call). The journal of contemporary patriots, and members and supporters of the National Social Block. (Editorial board: NSB Jihlava, chief editor – Michal Podolak; distribution. NSB Svratouch)
- AKCE (ACTION). The magazine of national revival.
- NÁCHODSKÝ NEČAS (NACHOD UNTIMELY) AKCE which is registered with the Ministry of Culture ranks along with NÁCHODSKÝ NEČAS among periodicals, the intention of which is to promote the Right Alternative.

### Establishment Genesis

The Ministry of the Interior registered in 1900 a political party under the name *the Radical Republican Party* with its registered seat in Brno. Afterwards this party changed its name several times, while in 1995 it was renamed as *the Patriotic Republican Party*.<sup>22</sup>

The main programme objectives of this party were contained in the “Complete Political Programme of the Patriotic Republican Party”. They were formulated very generally so that they did not leave the bounds of other political parties and their programmes and did not break the legal framework.<sup>23</sup> This party publishes its journal called VLASTENEC (PATRIOT), in Ostrava.

During the time this non-parliamentary party began to approximate right-wing extremists and started to take over their xenophobic rhetoric. The **6<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress of PRP** was held on 5 August 2000. Changes to the party management and commissions were made at this Congress. Its seat and the Statutes were changed as well and these changes were registered with the Ministry of the Interior on 15 September 2000. Such changes marked further internal development in the PRP. Since the above-mentioned Congress, the PRP has actively participated in events organised by right-wing extremist entities where the Secretary of the PRP, Jan Kopal, has made speeches side by side with representatives of the National Alliance, Patriotic Front, National Resistance, or National Revival. The regional election held in November 2000 became a turning point in the changes to the Patriotic Republic Party. “Independent” candidates – members of the National

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<sup>22</sup> The PRP declared itself in 1996 as “a right-wing political party respecting the traditions and principles of republicanism and patriotism. It especially follows the Republican Party of Farmers and Small Farmers, and its members are citizens of all professions and social groups. The PRP strives for the Czech Republic to become a democratic, human, strong and prosperous state in terms of its economy, with a parliamentary, plural political system to be established as a republic. In its political line it endeavours to persuade the system of “direct democracy” where maximum executive power will be transferred to municipalities and regional self-governments. Each citizen will have the right to make decisions on public matters through his/her elected representative to legislative bodies, self-government bodies and through referendums. This party has nothing in common with the party of Dr. Miroslav Sladek, i.e. with the Association for the Republic– Czechoslovak Republican Party” See the Patriotic Republican Party – “At our place – according to us” The Patriotic Republican Party. Last updated on 17 April 2000. Downloaded on 15 November 2000. The seat of the PRP was originally Ostrava and after the 7<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress (in 2000) it is Most – Vtelno. **The secretariat of the party** was in Brno, although the party was active also in Prague, Ceske Budejovice, Klenci pod Cerchovem, Most, Usti n/Labem, Jablonec n/Nisou, Liberec, Hradek u Rokycan, Tanvald, Litovel, Nachod, Ostrava, and Frydek – Mistek.

<sup>23</sup> The Programme objectives generally concerned the following issues: the new Constitution of the Czech Republic, foreign policy, security and justice, security of the country, national economy, private business, restitution, agriculture and countryside, transport, social policy, health care, the position of women in society, flat construction policy, environmental policy, education, youth and sports, church and state, and the prevention of development of neo-communism after 1989. See the Complete Political Programme of the Patriotic Republican Party. The Agreement with Citizens. Downloaded on 13 November 2000.

Alliance” - appeared on the lists of candidates of this party. At that time the party openly declared its “ideological relationship with this civic association”.

Part of the members of the National Alliance (NA) as well as part of the members of the unregistered National Resistance (NR) organisation entered the PRP at the beginning of 2001 with the intention of initiating substantial changes within the party. These new PRP members endeavoured to gain control over the party. On 3 March 2001 the 7<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress of the PRP was held and proved to be a successful culmination of such tendencies. The whole management of the party was called off along with the members of the Supervisory and Audit Commissions and the party decided on changing the name to the National Social Block (NSB) and also on changing the coat of arms of the party. The choice of coat of arms itself was left to the newly elected Board. The Board, approved by the Congress, also decided about the change of seat of the party.<sup>24</sup> This Congress also approved another change – the change of the Statutes being, inter alia, the aforementioned alteration of the name to “National Social Block” (“NSB”). **Despite the fact that the Ministry of the Interior rejected registering the change of the Statutes, thus rejecting also the change of the name from the Patriotic Republican Party to the National Social Block, this party presented itself publicly for the whole year of 2001 as the National Social Block which, however, did not exist legally.**

### Activities in 2001

The “National Social Block” proclaimed its new intentions at the assembly called on 1 May 2001 to the Square of Peace in Prague. It declared itself as “**the only national opposition political party in the Czech Republic**”. According to its chairman, Jan Kopal, its objective is, inter alia, “*to commence the national revolution, which will cause a lot of victims, however the victory will be worth it!*”<sup>25</sup>

The main priority of the party was to achieve election success in 2002 that would guarantee its entrance into real policy and bring profits from awarded Parliament seats. 2001 activities, accompanied by the establishment of a number of new local organisations of the NSB, focused on acquiring voters for the 2002 election. The party also considered its approach in penetrating municipal councils within the municipal elections. This issue was connected also with problems of party financing and related promotion leaflets.

In May 2001 the chairman of the party, Jan Kopal, introduced the NSB Action Programme at the press conference. As one of the items of the Programme is the solution of social issues, and a former chairman of the party called Pensioner for Life Security (PfLS) was invited The NSB planned to co-operate with this party in solving the problem of pensions in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, the NSB considered establishing a Trade Union organisation since from its point of view the current Trade Unions do not defend the interests of workers sufficiently. It declared its aim to concentrate mainly on exploitation by supranational corporations.

At its August meeting the NSB agreed that the NSB Board would consist of five members. At the same time the intention to set up the “Opposition Committee Against Joining the EU” which would address all similarly thinking entities not only in the domestic arena but also on the foreign scene, mainly in Ireland, Great Britain, Italy, and Spain, was approved. The conclusions of the meeting resulted in the decision to establish two election teams; one of

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<sup>24</sup> At present the party has its seat at the address of its Secretary, a leading personality of the National Resistance, Filip Vavra. During the period after the Congress issues of the new strategy of the party, changes in the programme, and other organisational issues were discussed.

<sup>25</sup> The NSB may be considered to be an organisation showing elements of racial and national hatred and anti-Semitism.

them to be in charge of the promotion of the party in the mass media, the organisation of election meetings, demonstrations, press releases etc., while the other would take care of financing the election campaign. The NSB also declared the need to hold at least once a week events of district importance.

In September 2001 the chairman of the NSB informed the Czech Press Agency about the establishment of election leaders for the election to the Chamber of Deputies in 2002. The Honourable Chairman Czech-Canadian Miroslav Rousek became a national leader, while Filip Vavra became a regional leader in Prague, Vladimir Skoupy in Central Bohemia, Jan Kopal in the Liberec Region, Ludek Hlinka in the Karlovy Vary Region, Jiri Anderle in the Pilsen Region, Alena Muckova in Ceske Budejovice Region, Michal Podolak in the Vysocina Region, and David Kocour in the Pardubice Region.

During the course of 2001 several negotiations were held between NSB representatives and representatives of other newly emerging political parties from an ultra right-wing segment of the political spectrum. They were very probably only negotiations of intention because individual existing or emerging political parties intend to mutually compete.<sup>26</sup> The findings gathered about the election strategy of the NSB showed that in its efforts to achieve its goals this party will not prevent mutual co-operation, not only with other right-wing extremist entities but also with left-wing extremists groups.<sup>27</sup>

Various events organised in different parts of the Czech Republic followed. For example in Liberec they rejected “the Czech Republic’s accession to the EU and the vision of multicultural and multiracial globalised society”; in Ostrava they organised an action to commemorate the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet soldiers; in Most there was a demonstration against creating advantages for a Roma ethnic group; and in Prague a demonstration to support Slobodan Miloschevic, and an assembly at Letna to celebrate 28 October, were organised. All these events were followed by actions held in Havlickuv Brod, Jablonec n/Nisou and other cities. On 18 December 2001 the Right Alternative organised a demonstration in front of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. Its representatives, including its chairman, Jan Kopal, and the chairman of the Central Bohemian organisation of the RA, V. Skoupy, protested against sending Czech soldiers to Afghanistan.

The management of the NSB put a special emphasis on the demonstration held on 28 October 2001 at Letna (Prague) to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak state.<sup>28</sup> The leaders were satisfied with the outcome of the demonstration because their hopes concerning the number of participants and peaceful course without any disturbance came true. Before the demonstration some members of the NSB management showed interest in documenting the whole event. This focused mainly on persons approaching the demonstration with the aim of comparing the video recording with the database the NSB is gradually creating.<sup>29</sup> Actually, it was the first demonstration at which the NSB forbade the

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<sup>26</sup> For example in August 2001 there was a meeting of the management of the NSB and the National Resistance Prague with representatives of an emerging political party called the National Party (NP). The Board Members of the NSB and a representative of a preparatory committee of the NPO discussed the proposal of an agreement drawn up by the National Party laying down conditions of acceptance of one member of the NP Preparatory Committee or some other NP members to the NSB. According to some opinions this was an attempt to create only a purely purposeful alliance because the National Party unsuccessfully applying for registration with the Ministry of the Interior is basically a competitor of the NSB with different views, but contrary to the NSB owns funds and significant contacts.

<sup>27</sup> For example the joint participation of supporters of both left-wing and right-wing extremists groups in the demonstration supporting Slobodan Miloschevic held in Prague on 26 July 2001

<sup>28</sup> The heads of individual NSB local organisations threatened their members with being expelled without any reason from the party unless they participate in Prague’s action.

<sup>29</sup> This database contains photos and information concerning people approaching demonstrations organised by right-wing extremists. A video recording from the course of the demonstration held on 17 November 2001 in

use of the Czech Republic's flag, with the reason that the NSB does not support the Czech state. Only red-white standards were permitted which corresponds to the habits of the Patriotic Front.

However a characteristic feature of the party was controversy about the current chairman, Jan Kopal, who came into the limelight after 11 September 2001, and the party's financial problems.<sup>30</sup>

At the aforementioned demonstration held in Most (15 September 2001), whose original objective was to express disapproval with providing advantages to a Roma ethnic group in the Czech Republic, NSB chairman J. Kopal made a speech in which he expressed his agreement with a terrorist attack on the USA and justified it by the statement that the USA deserved such an attack due to their policy.<sup>31</sup> The banners of participants showed the slogans as *"Israel and the USA – the largest world terrorists"*. At the October meeting of the NAB top management the party chairman was strongly criticised for the attitude of his speech in Most despite the fact that the NSB management members agree with the attacks on the USA.<sup>32</sup> The situation around the chairman worsened when some local organisations voted no confidence, and other dissociated themselves from him.<sup>33</sup> *In spite of the fact that more or less the whole NSB management expressed their interest in calling him from his office, they did not consent on this in 2001.*

### Foreign Contacts

On NSB web-sites there are also links to foreign entities such as Swedish Nationaldemokraterna, NPD, Front National, FPÖ, BNP, or Vlaams Blok.

The following meetings were held in September 2001:

- On 1 September 2001 two NSB members participated, on the basis of an invitation, in an event organised in Leipzig by the right-wing extremist National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) in the so-called "Patriotic Club".<sup>34</sup> During their stay in Leipzig they lived in the homes of the members of the German skinhead band "GESTAPO".<sup>35</sup>

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front of the Israel embassy in Prague was made for the internal use of the NSB. Jan Kopal and Vladimir Skoupy were intentionally not invited to this demonstration so that it could not be connected with the NSB. Despite expectations Arab students did not take part in it.

<sup>30</sup> The October meeting of NSB top management held in Prague solved, inter alia, issues concerning the party's financing, including the collection of membership fees and options to be sponsored by foreign entities. Insufficient funds led to the decision to suspend the print of the third number of the Akce journal and to make it accessible only on web-sites. As for the official NSB periodical "National Social Call", substantial financial problems were indicated as well.

<sup>31</sup> For his statements about the terrorist attack on the USA an investigator charged the chairman J. Kopal with approval of a crime. This case was suspended on the grounds of an expert's opinion according to which it was the extreme expression of the view of an individual. Jana Kopal was previously charged with spreading alarming news since in July 2001 he announced through a press release false information that Albanian terrorists were preparing to attack a planned NBS demonstration in front of the Yugoslavian embassy in Prague on 26 July 2001.

<sup>32</sup> One of the members of the NSB management ordered the printing of about 20,000 leaflets comparing the events in the USA with the bombing of Dresden during World War II and the American bombing in Vietnam.

<sup>33</sup> With regards to the Right Alternative political party it is necessary to mention one more person – its secretary Filip Vavra. He was involved in the operations of a **militant group comprising of about 20 persons who express their sympathy for the ideas of National Socialism**. However, these people are neither skinhead movement members nor members of any other similar group, political party or organisation and they intentionally do not attend any NSB rallies or concerts so that they can not be connected with the Czech right-wing extremist movement.

<sup>34</sup> NPD has its own delivery service and advertises its goods through a catalogue. It is, for example, possible to order a cup with a photo of Rudolf Hess and other products with relevant neo-Nazi symbols.

<sup>35</sup> This fact documents, inter alia, the currently existing contact of Czech right-wing extremists with their German colleagues. It is assumed that Czech right-wing extremists will try to agree with this band as well as

- On 28 September 2001 there was a meeting of the NSB leaders and representatives of a Swedish party called SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA in Prague. They agreed that SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA would provide to the NSB finance as a gift and simultaneously it would provide material gifts as well, such as computers and faxes. The NSB considers contacts with this party to be very important. Members of the NSB management were invited to Sweden to participate in the planned congress of SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA.<sup>36</sup>
- On 29 September three NSB members took part in the congress of German right-wing extremist political party Deutschevolksunion (DVU) held in Passau, where about 2,000 persons were present. They were welcomed as official guests of the congress. With SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA Swedish party playing the role of a middleman they discussed with the DVU chairman, Dr. Gerhard Frey, further contact between the DVU and the NSB, agreeing on the DVU's official support of the NSB during the 2002 election campaign. The possibility of financial gifts for the NSB was negotiated as well.

**With regards to lawful reasons which could, pursuant to Sec. 13 (6) of Act No. 424/1991 Coll., lead to the cancellation of a party or a movement by the decision of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, this party's activities are currently documented in terms of facts appropriate for applying such procedure in accordance with the above cited legal regulation. It is assumed that the Ministry of the Interior will draw up a document for the meeting of the Government relating to the filing of a relevant decision with the Court.**

### **Patriotic Front (PF)**

Since 17 June 1993, the PF has been registered with the Ministry of the Interior as a civic association under Act 83/1990 Coll. on Associations of Citizens.

**Chairmen:** The PF's first Chairman was Jiri Fiedler from Brno who, in 1999, was replaced by Ing. Miroslav Knapovsky, (the original Chairman of the local Patriotic Front organisation in Ostrava). He was followed by Jan Skacel, elected to the head of the PF at the Republic Congress held in Pardubice on 17 April 2000. After the resignation of Jan Skacel, **David Machacek was elected a chairman at the PF Congress held in September 2001.**

**The Seat of the Management:** Prague

**Local Organisations** (the most important ones): Prague, Ostrava, Kladno, Brno, Chrudim, České Budejovice, Pardubice.

**An estimation of the total number of registered numbers:** about several tens. The majority of members and supporters are young, nationalistically oriented people who ranked or have ranked among skinheads. However, this organisation also hosts people who have never had anything in common with skinheads.

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with other music bands on performances in the Czech Republic. After Blood & Honour had been banned in Germany, the Czech Republic became, a very interesting territory both for German bands and their well-wishers.

<sup>36</sup> Negotiations between the SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA party from Sweden and the NSB were not the first ones, similar negotiations took place in Prague in mid September 2001. However, it is the first proposal of financial assistance for the NSB from abroad. The NSB relies on this Swedish financial assistance much more than on, for example, financial help from the DVU.

**Periodicals: Obrana naroda (the Nation's Defence)** (1996 – present), **Hlas narodni mladeze (the Voice of the National Youth)** (1997 – the end of April 1999). Furthermore, the Patriotic Front has its Internet newsletter called **Zpravodaj Vlastenecke fronty (Newsletter of the Patriotic Front)** (1996 –present)<sup>37</sup>.

The PF came into existence within the skinhead movement, from which it has, over the course of time, partially separated and developed its own ideological profile.

In 1999, the Ministry of the Interior notified the Patriotic Front that they had been performing activities contradicting Section 4 of Act 83/1990, Coll. on Associations of Citizens, and in compliance with this Act they were asked to cease such activities. Reprehended shortcomings were immediately removed.

The PF is trying to cast doubts upon the civic principle, which is the basis of the Czech democratic system, and instead they promote a principle according to which citizens are given rights and freedoms based upon their ethnic or national origin. The PF applies this ideological conception publicly by refusing to offer advantages to minorities, by fighting against possible positive discrimination through the requirement of giving everybody the same opportunity. This kind of demagoguery is generally used by right-wing extremists all over the world, which means that their legal recourse is quite complicated.

In addition to regular club activities, the Patriotic Front operates publicly by organising various demonstrations, concerts and similar rallies, by distributing leaflets and publishing a range of publications which are either distributed in an environment friendly to their ideas, or through Internet web-sites.

In the past PF members often participated in public events along with a currently not active skinhead organisation Blood&Honour D.B. (1998), or with the no longer existing organisation National Alliance or the unregistered National Resistance (1999, 2000).

The PF maintains numerous contacts with foreign ultra-right-wing organisations and entities and has close links to domestic right-wing extremists belonging to skinhead or neo-Nazi movements. In contrast to neo-Nazi groups, the PF is more anti-German and moreover, within its organisation, there is an ideological stream friendly to activities of such groups as the Slav Committee of the Czech Republic.

In 2000, the PF particularly strove to penetrate the Czech political scene. After internal discussions, changes in the management of the organisation were made at the April Congress and Jan Skacel replaced the former chairman. He wanted to found a new political party as soon as possible under the name *The National Unity* which would profess the heritage of a party performing under the same name in the Czech Republic in the 30s of the last century, under the leadership of K. Kramar. The aim was also to preserve a former civic association of this kind. However, an application for registration was not submitted in 2000. Apart of the membership base separated from the PF in July 2000 under the leadership of M. Knapovsky and established a *civic association – the Country.cz* which was registered with the Ministry of the Interior in Autumn 2000. As a consequence, the Patriotic Front lost its leading position on the right-wing scene.

Soon after its establishment, the members of the association Country.cz attempted to found their own political party, which was supposed to perform under the name **National Party** and their intention was to compete with other registered right-wing extremist entities. The Ministry of the Interior rejected their application for the registration of the National Party since it did not meet all legal requirements for registration. As a consequence of a dispute among the preparatory committee members, two preparatory committees were established.

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<sup>37</sup> Mgr. Frantisek Rozhon and Ladislav Svoboda are those who make the web-site of “Newsletter of the Patriotic Front”.

They developed activities aimed at submitting a new application for the registration of the National Front.<sup>38</sup>

### Activities in 2001

During 2001 the PF continued its activities directed towards the establishment of a political party under the name of **The National Unity (NU)**. Contrary to the National Alliance and the National Resistance this party decided to enter the political scene using the “classical” way of setting up a new party. After internal organisational problems, the preparatory committee managed to gather the required number of signatures needed for the registration of a political party with the Ministry of the Interior, but some data was not complete (e.g. incomplete birth identification numbers, etc.), and therefore such data was irrelevant pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 6, (2) (a) of Act No. 424/1991 Coll., on Assembly in Political Parties and Political Movements, as amended. The preparatory committee published a newsletter called “Open Your Eyes”.

The development in the PF signalled the possibility of internal disunion. It was indicated by the sudden resignation of Frantisek Rozhon from a post on the Board of the PF<sup>39</sup> as well as by the resignation of Jan Skacel from the post of chairman. The latter decided to devote himself to the establishment of a new political party – The National Unity.<sup>40</sup> He was replaced by David Machacek, who after being elected on 17 September 2001 said to the Czech Press Agency that “*he intended to maintain the legal statute of the movement with the aim of extending its activities*”, and that “*it was necessary to gain especially young people for nationalistic ideas and his intention was to train them*”.

As for the September attacks on the USA the PF took the position according to which it considered terrorist attacks to be a disaster for the general public, however on the other hand it understood this action as “a right thing against the US administrative machinery”.<sup>41</sup>

The 2001 activities showed efforts to create a wider right-wing extremist “coalition” following the example of a French Le Pen party. The PF arranged in the past several events<sup>42</sup>. Despite their efforts the party was quite marginal and the possibility of its splitting further remained open.

In its future strategy the PF decided to focus on co-operation, for example with a preparatory committee of the National Party which is known under the name the National

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<sup>38</sup> Proposals for the registration of the National Party were simultaneously submitted in April 2001 by two preparatory committees. The procedure of registration has not yet been commenced due to legal impediments. See also Chapter 7 Measures Taken to Eliminate Crimes with Extremist Context. Activities of the Ministry of the Interior.

<sup>39</sup> For example during his speech at the demonstration held in Blansko on 17 March 2001 Frantisek Rozhon stated: “*We are not allowed to helplessly throw up our arms face to face with actual anarchists in a patriotic movement. Face to face with Sedlacek who managed to start up and then destroyed National Policy, Country and probably also the National Party. Face to face with those who have on their shield national unity and actually act towards national division...*” See Stanoviska (Opinions) in: Drogy, anarchie, Nova levice a my (Drugs, Anarchy, The New Left and Us. Downloaded on 14 April 2002.

<sup>40</sup> **The National Unity was registered with the Ministry of the Interior as a political party on 12 April 2002.**

<sup>41</sup> See Stanoviska VF (PF Opinions): The statement on the attack on the USA and following situation. 7 October 2001. Downloaded on 14 April 2002.

<sup>42</sup> For example on 28 October 2001 the PF organised in Usti nad Labem a demonstration to celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic which about 90 people participated. The speeches were held by PF chairman D. Machacek, followed by Frantisek Zima and representatives of local organisations in Strakonice and Usti n/Labem. The PF management was dissatisfied with the course of this demonstration. Although it was organised by the PF mainly members and supporters of the NSB participated in it.

Idea.<sup>43</sup> The French Front National (FN) of J.M. Le Pen is given priority among foreign partners.<sup>44</sup>

The situation within the right-wing nationalistic entity known as **Country.cz** during the year 2001 was influenced by problems relating to **National Party** registration.<sup>45</sup>

Persons linked to the PF registered on 6 December 2001 with the Ministry of the Interior a new civic association called **the Czech Patriotic Front (CPF)** with its seat in Ostrava.<sup>46</sup>

### **The National Patriotic Congregation (NPC)**

This organisation was registered with the Ministry of the Interior on 29 May 2000 as a civic association.

**Registered seat:** Tisnov na Morave

This organisation closely co-operates with the Patriotic Front. It requires the creation of a strong national state and within the framework of classical right-wing extremist topics it clearly declares against drugs, homosexuals, etc.

### **The National Alliance (NA)**

This was registered with the Ministry of the Interior **from 26 October 1998 until 15 April 2001.**

**Country head:** Vladimir Skoupy

**Number of members:** about 130 registered members

**The national seat:** RAKOVNÍK

**Seat of local organisations:** 17 in total (e.g. the capital city of Prague, Rakovnik, Jihlava, Klatovy, Karlovy Vary, Chomutov, Olomouc, Zabreh na Morave, Steti, Ostrava, Karvina, Veseli nad Moravou, and others)

**Dissolution:** On 31 March 2000 the Ministry of the Interior decided to dissolve the National Alliance. This decision did not come into legal force because **the NA decided on 18 March 2001 on its voluntary dissolution**, adopted prior to the examination of the Ministry of the Interior's decision by the Supreme Court.

**Cessation of the NA:** On the basis of NA official notification the Ministry of the Interior entered into its database the **cessation of the National Alliance on 15 April 2001.**

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<sup>43</sup> The civic association National Idea was registered with the Ministry of the Interior on 16 February 2001. In the North Moravian Region it has contacts with the PF management (the PF local organisations in Krnov and Ostrava) represented by provincial chairman Frantisek Rozhon, it has direct contacts with the Republic Youth in Karvina and it has links to some members of the Right Alternative.

<sup>44</sup> However, in September 2001 its representatives met in Prague with one member of the Swedish right-wing extremist party SVERIGEDEMOKRATERNA which maintains contact with the Right Alternative. They were informed on the splitting of this party and the establishment of a new radical group under the name National Democrats.

<sup>45</sup> Proposals for the registration of the National Party were simultaneously submitted in April 2001 by two preparatory committees. The procedure of registration has not yet been commenced due to legal impediments. On 17 July 2001 the Ministry of the Interior rejected another proposal for the registration of this political party as a consequence of the Statues contradicting democratic principles. The Preparatory committee of the National Party did not recognise the reasons for rejection and filed a protest with the Supreme Court which has not yet made its decision.

<sup>46</sup> Stanislav Bzonek, Miroslav Hlinka, Mgr. Frantisek Rozhon, and Ladislav Svoboda are the members of the preparatory committee.

**Periodicals:** “VYZVA” (CALL) - “internal paper of contemporary patriots”. This has been published by the local organisation in Jihlava since May 2000 as an irregularly published journal for members and supporters of the NA. It followed up the VLAJKA journal (FLAG) but it should be externally “*less striking and radical*”<sup>47</sup>. **Since April 2001 this journal has been published under the name of the Narodne socialni VYZVA (the National Social Call) – internal paper of contemporary patriots, and members and supporters of the Right Alternative (the National Social Block)**”.<sup>48</sup>

### **The Republican Youth (RY)**

This organisation has been registered with the Ministry of the Interior since 18 July 1997. The Constituent Congress of the Republican Youth was held on 24 October in Prague.

**Chairman:** Martin Zbela<sup>49</sup> (since 24 October 1998 when he was elected to this office by the Constituent Congress of the RY)

**The seat of the Central Council of the RY:** Prague

**Provincial Board in Bohemia:** Prague, the provincial head - Jiri Stepanek

**Provincial Board in Moravia:** Brno, the provincial head - Pavel Prochazka

**Provincial Board in Silesia:** Karvina, the provincial head - Martin Kleinedler

**Dissolution:** The Ministry of the Interior decided on the dissolution of the Republican Youth (RY) on 5 February 2002. This decision has not yet come into legal force.

The activities of the RY are managed by the Central Council of the RY elected by the congress. It is made up of seven members: a chairman, two vice-chairmen, a secretary, a treasurer and two members without special posts. The Central Council of the RY subordinates to the chairman and it manages and co-ordinates the activities of the RY, and appoints and recalls its members.

Basic units of the RY are local organisations. Regional Heads function as liaisons between local organisations and the Central Council of the RY

This organisation functions as an organisation of young people for the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek (formerly Association for the Republic – Czechoslovak Republican Party = AFR – CRP). Its members are also skinheads and moreover, co-operation with the NA or PF recorded.

This organisation is strictly against the situation: “*when individual nations are losing their identity and are gradually giving over their political as well as economic powers to multinational institutions*”. It professes to Euronat Jeunesse (The European National Youth.

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<sup>47</sup> In August 1999 the fourth, and at the same time the last, volume of the *Vlajka* was published. “The reason for stopping the publication of this two-monthly journal came from political pressure from the Ministry of the Interior and the Castle,” the NA stated in its commentary

<sup>48</sup> See Narodne socialni VYZVA (National Social CALL), No. 6 (April 2001)

<sup>49</sup> M. Zbela was on the 6th Congress of the SPR-RSČ (AFR –CRP) held in Ostrava on 28 March 1998, elected to the Board of the AFR – CRP 28.3.1998, and simultaneously he became a head of the Secretariat of the AFR – CRP. He was confirmed in this office on 9 December 2000 at the Congress of the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek. At the same time he is chief editor and publisher of Republic Weekly. He is a candidate of the RMS for the 2002 Parliamentary election in the Region of Karlovy Vary.

Its orientation with European right-wing extremist entities are supported by the links on its web-sites.<sup>50</sup>

### Activities in 2001

The RY concentrated on acquiring new members and the promotion of its ideas. Its members display promotion posters, try to organise public meetings of their representatives with young people, organise various protest and petition actions, and prepared for the election year of 2002.

The programme it would like to implement was disclosed on its web-sites. As a satellite organisation of the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek's political party it included among its political aims, for example: "*the rejection of the Czech Republic's membership of international organisations such as NATO or the European Union*" or "*the requirement to declare the neutrality of our country*" (Policy and Army, item IV). It also declared some of the following attitudes, such as: "*We reject any advantages made to various ethnic groups, mainly Gypsies, in their enrolment to secondary schools and universities (Education, point VI) or "Finally, to resolve the issue of ethnic groups being unable to adapt, for example Gypsies – inter alia, by the renewal of certificates of native domicile, by eliminating all unjustified advantages, etc. Nobody may and nobody will be a parasite on our society (Security, item III)", and in addition they require "the state to cease the inflow of refugees from third countries", and "[the state] to forbid anarchist and other groups which by their activities negatively influence the healthy development of youth (Security, item VI)*"<sup>51</sup> The programme of the Republican Youth in question was assessed by the Ministry of the Interior as discriminating and, with regard to the part called "Policy and Army", as inconsistent with Section 1(3) (a) of Act No. 83/1990 Coll., which excludes from the regime of this Act, the association of members of these forces in political parties and political movements. Therefore the Ministry applied against this association a call under Section 12 (3) of Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on 27 July 2001. The opinion of the RY on the call in question, submitted to the Ministry of the Interior on 1 November 2001, stated the alteration of item II of the RY Programme" by omitting words "*by renewal of certificates of native domicile*". The truth is that as of 31 January 2002 the "RY Programme" was still presented on the Internet sites of this association in its original version, which means that the association continued the activities which the Ministry of the Interior objected to<sup>52</sup>. As a consequence the Ministry proceeded to dissolve this organisation. The chairman of the Republican Youth M – M. Zbela - responded to this decision taken by the Ministry of the Interior against which the RY filed a remedy at the Supreme Court. He said:

*"The Programme of the Republic Youth has not been modified since 24 October 1998. It is true that we yielded to the pressure of the Ministry of the Interior by omitting*

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<sup>50</sup> The links are to the web-sites of the Front National and its youth organisations FNJ-Front National de la Jeunesse -le site officiel, whose motto is "La France aux Français!" as well as to other similar entities. We can find among them for example alleged members of Euronat such as Alianca Nacional (Portugal) Democracia Nacional (Spain), Ellinico Metopo (Greece), Slovenska narodna strana (Slovakia), Partituda România Mare (Romania), Sverige Demokraterna Ungdom (Sweden), Isänmaallinen Kansallis Liitto (Finland), or so-called observers such as Vlaams Blok Jongeren (Belgium), Deutsche Volksunion - DVU (Germany) or MIEP (Hungary). The British National Party is also named among allied entities.

<sup>51</sup> See <http://mujweb.cz/www/sprbrno/repml.html>. The programme we will strive to implement is as follows: Downloaded on 16 January 2001.

<sup>52</sup> Downloaded on 31.1.2001. The RY Programme presented currently on the RY web-sites initiated on 18 December 2001 does not contain in the section called Security, item III the words "*renewal of certificates of native domicile*" however, no changes have been made in any of the above-mentioned points. Downloaded on 18 April 2002.

*“certificates of native domicile” but it does not change anything about the fact that we still require the solution of issues of the ethnic groups being unable to adapt.*

*In the case of our political activities this point is so essential that we do not intend to budge an inch...*

*There is only one possible defence against injustice – an attack. Even now we are preparing to file a protest against the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic and we cannot exclude that we will lodge complaints as well. We can look forward to an interesting trial - the state versus citizens who just want to pursue themselves politically and have been prohibited to do that by the Ministry of the Interior.*

*I can assure our members and supporters that the RY continues to be an official civic association and it will be the same after the judgement is pronounced. So nothing ends, on the contrary everything goes full stream ahead”.<sup>53</sup>*

In 2001 the provincial management in Silesia chaired by Martin Kleinedler, who is at the same time a member of the Central Council of the RY, and David Dembiński, a member of the Audit commission, was quite active. According to police findings they associate around them young supporters of the skinhead movement who are willing to provoke conflicts and skirmishes. They talk among themselves about a racial war using “Molotov cocktails”, conspiracy, etc. They also published a periodical of the RY of the Moravian-Silesian Region called “Student Torch”, the chief editor of which was D. Dembiński. In the 2001 the provincial board made an effort to make this association more visible on the political scene. The RY representatives strove to play the roles of newly emerging “politicians” thus trying to attract voters prior to the elections by commenting especially on social issues. They organised assemblies on the occasions of important national holidays, accompanied by marches across cities, and held demonstrations where they tried to point out often demagogic simple solutions of social and economic problems of the region in question. They intentionally attacked mainly members of the Roma minority.<sup>54</sup> Approximately 150 to 300 persons participated in such events, particularly skinhead movement supporters. During some speeches they presented nationalistic and racial ideas, including racial slogans. Leading representatives of the provincial organisations as well as other RY well-wishers, mainly skinhead movement supporters from Ostrava, Karvina, and Opava, are being prosecuted for such speeches at the moment.

## **The Republicans of Miroslav Sladek (RMS)**

A political party registered with the Ministry of the Interior on 25 January 2001.

**Chairman:** PhDr. Miroslav Sladek

**Registered seat:** Prague

**Seat of main secretariats:** Prague, Havlickův Brod, Brno

**Periodicals:** Republika (Republic)

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<sup>53</sup> Information was downloaded on 18 April 2002.

<sup>54</sup> For example a protest meeting held in Karvina (30 March 2001), a demonstration and a march of the RY organised to support national identity against drugs in Orlova with the participation of PF and RA supporters (31 March 2001), an illicit march of the RY in Karvina (1 May 2001), and a demonstration and a march under the name of “The National Demonstration for the Rights of the White and Against Drugs” in Bohumin where supporters of the PF and RA participated as well (2 June 2002) (verbal attacks against Roma inhabitants were presented there). An invitation leaflet for the demonstration of the RY in Orlova (31 March 2001) contained the slogan *“We must protect the existence of our people and a future for Czech youth”* which is possible to interpret as a slightly changed translation of the slogan of David Lane, an American racist: *“We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children”*.

## Establishment Genesis

The Ministry of the Interior registered a political movement named the **Independent Republican Youth** on 12 July 2000. This movement participated in a coalition under the name of the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek, together with the Association for the Republic – Czechoslovak Republican Party and the Association of Pensioners of the Czech Republic (the AFR –CRP, in the autumn elections of regional councils. The elections results were unsuccessful for this coalition. In connection with a petition for bankruptcy filed with the City Court in Prague for the property of the AFR – CRP (bankruptcy proceedings were declared on 21 February 2001), the movement focused on “taking over the membership base”. **The Congress held on 9 December 2000** in Prague adopted changes in the Statutes under which the movement has transformed into a political party named **the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek**. The Ministry of the Interior registered this change on 25 January 2001. The Republicans of Miroslav Sladek ideologically follow the AFR –CRP. They promote EURONAT on their web-sites.<sup>55</sup>

*“The 2002 Programme of the Republicans” fully corresponds in all its items to the enunciation used by the former AFR – CRP. Its objective is to seize power and make a range of changes, however, it does not openly declare this.”*

## Activities in 2001

The year 2001 was for the RMS especially a period of preparation for both the Parliamentary and Municipal elections in 2002.<sup>56</sup> The activities carried out by this “new” political party were subordinated to such preparation. Re-registration of the membership base of the AFR – CRP and preparation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the party started in February 2001. In the course of the year mainly issues concerning the parliamentary election, election

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<sup>55</sup> See We and Europe. Downloaded on 25 June 2001. **Euronat (established in 1997)** and its satellite youth organisation **Euronat Jeunesse (established in 1998)** on the occasion of 14<sup>th</sup> summer university organised by Front National de la Jeunesse, which is a satellite organisation of Le Pen’s Front National) **represent a free association of extreme national European political parties**, chaired informally by a French nationalist, Jean-Marie Le Pen. The objective of this association is mainly to co-ordinate the joint procedure of these political parties against European policy and Euro-Atlantic Security integration. An attempt to establish a Europe opposed to the USA and a Europe of nations rank among the basic objectives of the Euronat association. **A Europe of nations is declared by the Euronat as an alternative to a unified Europe. The Euronat ideologically professes resistance against globalisation.** The political parties associated in the Euronat, inter alia, endeavour to set up a new national right-wing in the European Parliament after elections, which are to be held in 2004. Also, the chairman of the former AFR –CRP used to be mentioned in connection with the Euronat. The ideological principals of the Euronat Jeunesse are identical with the principals declared by the Euronat. The First assembly of the Euronat Jeunesse was held in September 1998 in Madrid and another one was organised in Rome in the same year. In May 1999, the National Youth Holiday was organised in Paris under the auspices of Euronat Jeunesse.

<sup>56</sup> The Czech delegation headed by M. Sladek took part in the Presidential Convention of Front National J. M. Le Pen held in Lyon on 15 – 18 February 2002. It addressed the present deputies of the European Parliament with a request to send foreigner observers to supervise the course and count of the parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic. The RMS stated in the media: *“Having experience with the non-transparent results of last parliamentary elections and strange turns and odd coincidences with the declaration of the results (the same results in several districts and so on), the Republicans supported by other political and social organisations decided to request partner political parties from the countries of Western and Central Europe and deputies of the European Parliament to send observers to inspect the course of the election and vote count. Our official request was accepted with the understanding that the situation in the Czech Republic reminds Balkan countries and participation of observers was promised....”* See Tydenik Republika (Republic Weekly), No.11, 14 March 2002. Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

campaign, the strategy of the Meetings of M. Sladek, and other matters, were discussed.<sup>57</sup> An unambiguously declared aim of the RMS is to acquire seats in the Czech Parliament.

The first part of the RMS Congress was held on 30 September 2001 in Havlickův Brod. The Congress was attended by foreign guests such as vice-chairman of the French Front National Dominique Chaboche and chairwoman of the Belgium New Front Marguerite Bastien. After a temporary board of the party was elected the Congress was closed and an election of the party's chairman was postponed until 2002. The first part of the Congress appointed the Executive Committee of the party which has a body allying the Board along with District and Regional Heads. The Congress also elected a credentials committee and proposals committee, working board, and verifiers of the Congress. The Congress deputies approved the draft programme thesis. On 24 February 2002 the second part of the Congress elected Miroslav Sladek to be chairman of the RMS.

## **Extracts from " The 2002 Programme of the Republicans"**<sup>58</sup>

### ***Section 1 - Family***

#### ***We propose:***

*(Point 4) "To amend the tax system so that it enables a decrease in income tax according to number of children. Flat child allowances are only a transitional phase since they do not distinguish between an individual who works, and a parasite living from the number of children. Therefore we are proposing to decrease the income tax of a working parent for each child so that with 5 children no income tax would be paid. **This would automatically exclude those groups of the population which use child allowances as the source of their living and bring disadvantages to citizens of high integrity and people economically active**".*

### ***Section 3 - Immigration***

*"Our principal efforts are to reject multicultural society on behalf of our national identity".*

#### ***We are proposing:***

*(Point 1) "To terminate refugee inflow using a strict control of our national border so that crossing our border would be made impossible for persons without our entrance visa".*

*(Point 2) "The uniting of families causes a further inflow of refugees who follow the first groups. We are for the uniting of families and we will support it, but exclusively in the country of their origin".....*

*(Point 5) "To implement an effective procedure of expulsion of illegal immigrants. They will be uncompromisingly, and as quickly as possible, returned to the country of their origin. They are not entitled to any allowances or support and for the period between their apprehension and expulsion will be guarded in a special facility (detention)".*

#### ***Strengthening and protecting nationality with respect to the form and content***

*(Point 1) "Czech nationality is reserved for all children who come from a Czech father and a Czech mother. A voting right is given only to citizens having a Czech nationality.*

*(Point 3) Acquiring citizenship is necessary to condition by strict verification, examinations of language, culture and spiritual values, knowledge bringing to our nation. The same applies to certificates of guarantors for a candidate of Czech citizenship. The same procedure applies in the event of a marriage as for example in Switzerland, where approval of a local council and neighbours is required.*

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<sup>57</sup> The Regional Conferences, whose main topic was preparation for the election year of 2002, were held in May.

<sup>58</sup> Downloaded on 3 April 2002.

*(Point 4) “The loss of citizenship should be introduced for all naturalised persons who commit serious criminal offences such as a murder, terrorism, kidnapping, child abuse, rape, or trade in drugs. Having regard to humanitarian reason the loss of citizenship applies to the whole family since it is not in our interest to split off the family.*

*(Point 5) “It is absolutely essential to prefer our nationality while preserving or applying for a job or while allocating social flats. Child allowances and any other social benefits must be reserved only for Czech nationals.”*

**With regards to lawful reasons which could pursuant to Sec. 13 (6) of Act No. 424/1991 Coll. lead to the cancellation of a party or a movement by the decision of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, this party’s activities are currently documented in terms of being appropriate for applying such procedure in accordance with the above cited legal regulation. It is assumed that the Ministry of the Interior will draw up a document for the meeting of the Government relating to the filing of a relevant decision with the Court.**

### **3.3 The Left-wing Extremist Scene<sup>59</sup>**

#### **3.3.1 “Anarcho-autonomous” Scene**

Anarcho-autonomous activists have since November 2000 continued their efforts to overcome the division of the scene resulting from membership in individual organisations, and to agree on the basis of a programme which would enable the coexistence of various lines of opinion. As a consequence of different evaluations of the success of protest actions during the Prague IMF/WB meeting disputes among individual groups participating in activities carried out by the Initiative Against Economic Globalisation (INPEG) became sharper. The compromise on which INPEG was built was from its very beginning shown to be problematic. At the beginning of 2001 the CSAF at the meeting of INPEG activists<sup>60</sup>, on the basis of their experience of the protest actions against the IMF/WB meeting, rejected any further co-operation with an organisation called the Socialist Solidarity (SoSo), and made its further membership in the INPEG conditional upon SoSo leaving. This approach resulted in discussion about the further existence of INPEG during which the CSAF cast doubt over the importance of INPEG, which allegedly caused the failure of a solidarity action which should support the protests of WEF in Davos. Such discussion resulted in the transformation of INPEG into “a co-ordination and information platform which will not have perform any external activities but will enable individual activist groups to be mutually informed of each others’ plans and activities”. The importance of INPEG decreased to the minimal level of only its original name, as a symbol of Czech adversaries of globalisation and the

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<sup>59</sup> The latest attempt to describe the phenomenon of the radical left in the period of the past twelve years is the work of Brno political scientist M. Bastl: “Radikalni levice v Ceske republice – devadesata leta 20. stoleti” (The Radical Left in the Czech Republic – 1990s of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century), published by Mezinarodni politologicky ustav MU (International Institute of Political Sciences of Masaryk University), Brno 2002.

<sup>60</sup> The following organisations participated in the meeting: CSAF, ORAS, EARTH FIRST! (EF!), CHILDREN OF THE EARTH, Socialist Solidarity (SoSo), a representative of Confrontation, an anarchist journal, and others.

manifestation of a certain preserved nostalgia. It was decided that INPEG would neither be a platform for a campaign against NATO nor participate in a protest campaign against the EU.<sup>61</sup>

The aforementioned transformation of INPEG resulted in a successive sophistication of the anarchist scene, while a fundamental role was played by the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSFA) and a group called the Antifascist Action (AFA).

A doctrinal discrepancy between the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists – Solidarity (ORAS), the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSAF), and the Czechoslovak Anarchist Association (CAA) on one side and the Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) on the other side - has continued.<sup>62</sup>

CSAF, CAA and ORAS are more or less merging into one action unit although they differ in view on some issues. The FSA is becoming more isolated within the anarcho.-autonomous scene, contrary to the AFA, which is trying to maintain contact with all anarcho-autonomous entities.

The AFA, rather, is inclining to the FSA, mainly because some AFA members are simultaneously active in the FSA. The aforementioned discrepancy substantially weakens the anarcho-autonomous scene, particularly in its ability to unify all entities at least during significant events.

The largest and the most important anarchist organisations operating in the Czech Republic have remained the following: the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (formerly the Czech Anarchist Federation), the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists – Solidarity (ORAS) on one side, and the Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) on the other side.<sup>63</sup> A common programme thesis of these three organisations is the rejection of state, and of capitalist organisation of the economy. Contrary to the CSAF, the ORAS and the FSA emphasise purely political activities.

The Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSAF, formerly CAF)

An unregistered organisation. In 1997, after the Slovak branch joined the organisation, the IV Congress of CSA (established in 1995) decided to change the name of the organisation to the CSAF.

*"The Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSAF) is an anti-authoritarian organisation of liberal people who do not intend to tolerate the current social system which is based mainly on two pillars of oppression and exploitation – the state and capitalism. However, we are not only negativists who merely criticise visible or hidden shortcomings. We are striving to actively propagate our alternative vision of arranging a free and self-governing society".<sup>64</sup>*

In its programme rhetoric, the CSAF strictly avoids using wording such as *class struggle*. Whilst criticising the system, it concentrates on connection between the power (coercion) and capital. Its fundamental thesis, which is frequently used, is that the state came into existence to protect private property and that capitalism needs to operate under efficient

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<sup>61</sup> The INPEG perceives itself as a platform "the sense of which is combating globalisation, as such especially economic globalisation". The EU is perceived by INPEG as a regional political and economical structure.

<sup>62</sup> **The Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) considers itself to be the only authentic anarchist organisation in the Czech Republic.**

<sup>63</sup> See Martin Bastl, Anarchismus v Ceske republice (Anarchism in the Czech Republic). In: Stredoevropske politologicke studie, vol. 4, 2000, No. 4. <http://www.iips.cz/cisla/texty/komentare/anarch400.html>. The CAF was founded in 1995. In 1996 a Moravian syndicalist group "Solidarity" separated from it and became a foundation stone of the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists - Solidarity (ORAS). In 1997 another group separated from the CSAF and this group established the Federation of Social Anarchists a (FSA).

<sup>64</sup> The Manifesto of the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation. Downloaded on 2 April 2001

conditions controlling society. Capitalist organisation of the economy itself is criticised, especially in the areas which are typically symptomatic of global capitalism. Manifestation of such areas being: consumption and related over-production, exploitation of sources of raw materials, energy, destruction of ecosystems, growing power of multinational corporations, and as well the impossibility of controlling such corporations, large investors, and financial speculators. The set of issues relating to the CSAF's view of societal reconstruction is perceived by the CSAF in such a way that unprivileged classes have to fight to be able to keep freedom and social justice. This organisation's programme is aimed at young people.

### **Organisational Structure**

The CSAF functions using a principle of volunteers. Decision-making processes, as well as all activities, start at the bottom, at the membership base. There is no central body.

The future direction of the CSAF, the rotation of functions, or any respective organisation-wide changes, are always discussed at the Congresses of the membership base, usually held twice a year. The Czech and Slovak sections of the CSAF are autonomous in making decisions. The CSAF is active mainly in Prague, Prerov, Chrudim, Vimperk and Bratislava.

**The membership base** of the CSAF comprised more than 30 persons at the end of 2000 (of these, 10 members were in Prague, the South-Western, Eastern and Moravian regions each had up to 5 members, and 10 members were in Slovakia).

### **Periodicals**

The anarchist revue, *Existence*, is published quarterly. Presented on the CSAF web-sites are: *A-kontra*, *Solidarita (Solidarity)*, publications of Slovak organisations Zdola (From the Bottom) and Priama akcia (Direct Action).<sup>65</sup>

Further, the CSAF issues posters, leaflets and publications predominantly focused on anarchist theory and practice. They have also an established distribution network of the above materials.

Among their activities, the CSAF organises the following events:

- miscellaneous cultural events at which funds are raised for their activities,
- public actions (**demonstrations**, information stalls, etc.), that are mostly a part of campaigns by the CSAF.

Outside the anarchist movement the CSAF tries to co-operate with organisations which target specific problems of the current time, and they do not enforce the objective of preserving a "*socially unjust society*" in their programmes.

### **Activities in 2001**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CSAF, held on 5-8 July 2001<sup>66</sup>, was attended by about 50 people, a half of whom were supporters and guests, either members of allied organisations or non-organisational well-wishers. The Congress dealt with organisational matters, the concept of the Anarchist Black Cross working with the CSAF, actions to be held in protest against the NATO meeting in Prague in autumn 2002, the continuation of a campaign against the EU, and other campaigns and smaller events.

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<sup>65</sup> Downloaded on 2 April 2001. An anarchist journal Confrontation ceased to be published.

<sup>66</sup> Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

During the course of 2001 there was discussion concerning the preparation of campaigns against the EU and NATO, marked by certain scepticism towards the future of an international anti-global movement. CSAF members came to the agreement that it was difficult to organise international protest actions of a S26 type, because the majority of countries had gained experience from the anti-globalisation actions held in Seattle, Prague, and Davos. Individual state bodies as a result are more experienced and will prevent activists from entering a country. This subsequently will lead to the pacification of international anti-globalisation activities. As a consequence, according to CSAF members, so-called “solidarity actions” are the actions of the future. These would be organised by individual activist groups on the same day, in their home environment.

In April 2002 CSAF started to operate special web-sites devoted to “NATO and antimilitarism in general”. According to its declaration “these web-sites form a part of the anarchist campaign against NATO and militarism relating to the meetings of this organisation in Prague”. These sites will also serve as a source of information about the street protests that are being prepared<sup>67</sup>. CSAF states in its declaration:

*“ For millions of our hard-earned taxes, tens of country heads, often responsible for causing the outbreaks of wars or guilty of supporting dictators or terrorists, will be hosted here. The reason for their meeting is to discuss how to best defend “civilisation”, as they ostentatiously call the system in which they are powerful and in whose decisions the majority of other people are not able to interfere. This system is in fact unmaintenable, which is proven by the increasingly high numbers of social and ecological disasters which are caused by it, as well as by wars, arms race and other consequences of militarism...*

*Therefore we have decided on the occasion of the NATO meeting to come up in our campaign not only against this particular meeting but against NATO and militarism as such, and against the system which has given rise to them ...”*<sup>68</sup>

A leaflet “ Give peace a chance! Stop the NATO meeting“ provides basic information from CSAF about “*the NATO meeting, structures of this organisation; it denies some fundamental myths about this organisation and informs on the opinions of the anarchist organisation*”.<sup>69</sup>

In 2001, CSAH tried for admission into the Internationale of Anarchist Federations (IAF/IFA), which would probably mean an increase in the prestige of this organisation and at the same time the possibility of getting certain financial support.<sup>70</sup>

## **Extracts from the Manifesto of the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation**

### ***Against the state and capitalism***

*“...The state and the capitalist system are established on the principles of the dominance, authority and prevalence of natural, as well as human, sources. Historically, a state was established to defend private property and production means – i.e. it was established on social theft and exploitation.... Governments and political parties are directly or indirectly under the influence of capital, the interests of which they protect... The interests of large*

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<sup>67</sup> An archive of articles and texts related to the topic in question can be currently found on the web-sites. the CSAF commenced its campaign against the NATO meeting in November 2002 in Prague by organising two demonstrations (2 February and 9 February 2002)

<sup>68</sup> Downloaded on 18 April 2002.

<sup>69</sup> Downloaded on 18 April 2002. A special publication of A-kontra is available here. All NATO related opinions are presented by sub-headers such as: “*Stop together the NATO meeting! NATO in the war in Yugoslavia, Democracy? Protection of human rights? Who does it serve? The war in Afghanistan, Does any alternative exist? We can stand aside, the War against terrorism?*”

<sup>70</sup> IAF/IFA associate organisations from Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Argentina, and Bulgaria.

*contemporary amounts of capital are enforced by international commercial, financial, and military institutions, treaties and associations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), North-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the European Union (EU), North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and so on, that directly impact the decisions made by the governments of national states. The selfish interests of multinational corporations and foreign investors determine conditions in many countries, especially in countries of the Third World, which is still a source of cheap raw materials and labour forces. The situation in some regions looks like a planned genocide realised through the support of local wars, dictatorships or the prohibition of production of their own medications for curing diseases, killing thousands and thousands of people. Global capitalism has become dangerous because of its unlimited power and because it is uncontrollable... People are intentionally brought up on “consumer” ethics, which makes them blind but evokes a semblance of being free. The consequences of this process are cultural degradation of society and man, and frequent pathological manifestations. We are opposed to any form of social oppression; not only to open capitalism, but also to proletarian dictatorship since it is a mere dictatorship of a party elite or of one leader. The environment of any authoritative social or economic system produces a range of negative phenomena in society, such as xenophobia, racism, fascism, nationalism, sexism, homophobia and so on. Some of these phenomena are exacerbated by aggressive authoritative ideologies and churches.*

### **For Free Society**

#### ***The Journey to Freedom and Social Justice***

*”...Anarchists represent those who are included on the black list of repressive power as item number one. This is not because they are dangerous for society, but because they represent the greatest danger for the state power and the interests of capital. To withdraw from our name – that of anarchists - for tactical reasons would be unacceptable to us, since doing so we would dishonour the memory of our predecessors.... The establishment of a free, state-free socialist society should follow the existing self-governing associations in production and social spheres. ...**Whilst changing the current authoritative society we might not be able to avoid defending ourselves against violence by repressive forces either belonging to the state or multinational companies**... Nowadays, and in the near future of several years, we do not consider actual social movement towards the free arrangement of society as realistic due to the low political maturity of the unprivileged classes and the insufficient experience of Czech and Slovak workers with day-to-day social struggle ”.*

The CSAF in 2001 as well as in 2002 made available on its web-sites for interested person citations of the works of “anarchist classics”, etc.

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) (alongside with the CSAF)

The ABC-CSAF ranks among the most important Czech groups supporting prosecuted supporters and well-wishers of the anarchist movement. It operates within the organisation as an initiative assisting, mainly financially, anarchists and other radical left-wing non-authoritative activists who are persecuted by *“the state power, taking the form of the police and courts”*. Sending protest e-mails, letters and faxes and organising protest demonstrations in front of embassies, among others, are all activities of the ABC. *In the case of Czech anarchists, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior are under pressure.*

## Activities in 2001

The international meeting of the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) held on 30 June–1 July 2001 in Gent, Belgium, in which groups from France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, England, Germany, Italy, Poland, and the Czech Republic participated, resulted, *inter alia*, in a definite conclusion – on the establishment of a closed mailing list (a list of e-mail addresses) among the participating groups.

## The Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) – a membership section of the International Workers' Association (MAP-IWA-AIT)

This unregistered organisation was established in 1997 when politically oriented anarchists of the CSAF split away from it. It is profiled as a radical organisation ideologically oriented towards anarcho-syndicalism.

For the FSA, the state is a tool of the governing class that serves as a defence for its interests. In the FSA's opinion, economic struggle is only a part of the struggle for a new historical chance enabling mankind to develop a class-free society based on co-operation, solidarity, and mutual help. The FSA operates on the principle of the idea of the gradual establishment of small propagandistic groups at worksites or places of residence, which will join together in a common federal organisation. The gradual extension of agitating cells to stronger local organisations is to be accompanied with the move of a centre of activities towards the support and organisation of social struggle. The precondition of any success is for the FSA to sell its aim of a self-governing and class-free society to an essential part of society.

**Periodicals:** FSA newspaper Svobodna prace (Free Work) (published monthly)

Additionally, the FSA makes intensive efforts in publishing and also establishing anarchist trade unions called **ROVNOST (EQUALITY)**, which are a part of the International Workers' Association. According to a statement by FSA representatives, the establishment of the anarchist Trade Unions is "*the expression of a political theory under which we want to achieve revolutionary political changes and to do so we need a workers' organisation; the Trade Union forms its part.*"

## Activities in 2001

In 2001, FSA representatives took part in the International Anarchist Congress in France organised by the Internationale of Anarchist Federations (IAF).

The FSA organised on 18 November 2001 a protest action in front of the British embassy. Groups of FSA members and supporters demonstrated for the setting free of Mark Barnsley, who was prosecuted in Great Britain.

In connection with "Rovnost" (Equality) Trade Union, a vision outlining the further direction of TU-E was presented. This should consist of extending its scope of activities in the form of establishing company organisations directly at working sites, disseminating anarchist ideas among workers and involving these in various strikes and protests.

The **Antifascist Group of the FSA** commenced its work in 2001. This group organised on 2 December 2001 a demonstration in Prague against "Nazi violence in South Housing District in Prague" Activists claimed this demonstration was justified because of the increasing number of attacks of right-wing extremists in this housing estate".<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> "Nowadays we hardly find in the South Housing District a single street without at least one Nazi. They associate, in the better case, in classical criminal gangs, in the worse case, they directly function within a right-

In addition, the declared objective of the demonstration was to lay down “a certain strategy for struggle against the growing ultra right”. The Antifascist Group of the FSA provided here instruction as to how to act against neo-Nazis. Besides promotional activities, cultural and educational activities, the removing of fascist propaganda and arguing against fascists, it stresses the monitoring and “liquidation of Nazi activities”, while home guards is considered to be the most effective solution. According to this group “...in each block of the housing estate there must be an activist or a group of activists who monitor the life of Nazis in their environment, clean up their propaganda and marginalize them through physical attacks”. The group also instigated the use of all available means in antifascist combat, since “there is the only response to violence – to use our strength. Neo-Nazis themselves constantly prove that strength is the only argument they understand”.<sup>72</sup>

## **Extracts from the Texts of the FSA**

### **Who Are We And What Do We Want? – The Basic Programme Points of the FSA Society at the threshold of a new millennium**

Shall we remain people or shall we become human resources?

“...The global economy showed that even a minor shock to the new world order beckons a wave of crisis all over the world, which again pushes a part of workers closer to the poverty line. “The democratic regime” ceased to be oriented towards “human” values a long time ago and people are considered merely as distracting insects requiring various social allowances. People are just “human resources”, figures to be written off... What will happen after a few years? Our country will become a poor province of the European Union where one third of people will live a miserable existence claiming unemployment support and receiving poor salaries from their part-time jobs and seasonal employment.”

### **Work and Society**

“...So anarchists reject any state establishment and want to replace such establishment with a state-free, i.e. class-free, society, which is the only really free society”.

### **The Social Revolution and Foundation of a Free Society**

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wing extremist organisation. In the territory of this housing estate such organisations try, with the help of attacks against everybody who does not correspond to their distorted pictures, to introduce an atmosphere of fear and a feeling that they are rulers of the streets. In addition to ideologically motivated attacks they commit extensive antisocial crimes such as robberies, extortion, deprivation of personal freedom – especially serious is chicanery in school environs – and moreover they participate in the spreading of drug-addiction. Today Nazis attack more or less everybody, mainly for one’s skin colour, nationality, appearance, political conviction or social position – as they considerably showed it on the nights of 16 to 17 November ...” The speech at the beginning of the demonstration near Opatov underground station: South Housing District – municipal policy and nazism. Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

<sup>72</sup>“Monitoring the activities of individual Nazis and gathering information about them (addresses, photos, phone numbers, where they study or work, where they go). The same applies to their associations. Mutual exchange of such information among antifascists.

Home guards (territory army) – a mutually well informed and well organised network of antifascist activists. It is necessary to realise that an individual, alone, face to face with a fascist threat, fails, and therefore it is important to organise people of the same views into larger units. At the very beginning such a network consists of only individual activists who are afterwards grouped according to their places of residence into larger groups always ready to fight. With a view to capacity for action, such groups must be in mutual contact, both personal (because of co-ordination of long-term plans), and via technology, for quick response to unexpected problems of neo-Nazis.” The speech at the end of the demonstration held near tram stop Donovalska; AFS FSA leaflets “How to proceed against neo-Nazi activities?” Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

*“...Any governing class will not give up its powers and privileges without a struggle! The social change we are calling for must have revolutionary features. It will take the form of an irreconcilable struggle between two antagonistic social classes ...*

*...The social revolution means a fundamental change in the structure of any state. It does not only mean a transition from capitalism to an anarchist economy based on co-operation and egalitarianism, but also the **elimination of a state and of all hierarchical structures**. The social revolution is not organised, it will just break out; in most cases in connection with intensified state repression of revolutionary movements.*

*Its possible beginning may be a general strike paralysing practically all the operations of a capitalist state. In such a moment workers would start to expropriate the means of production and transfer them to being under collective management. **The establishment of voluntary militia units is also required**. These will stand up to repressive state forces that try to reverse such a revolutionary process using violence. Armed militia units will be under the control of workers and their organisations and will have a common command. **If a class-free, really free society, is to be established successfully, it will be necessary to consistently liquidate state and capitalist structures during the revolution ....***

*...Today we face only two possibilities. We will either fall to the bottom of a class-society, which will get stronger, or we will eventually try to grasp our destiny in our hands.”<sup>73</sup>*

## **The Antifascist Action (AFA)**

*The AFA is an unregistered organisation associating together radical (militant) antifascists establishing action groups that operate mainly in individual locations or regions. The Czech AFA was founded in June 1996 and is linked to related foreign AFA organisations. After the restriction of their activities in 1997–1998, the AFA started to organise itself again at the beginning of 1999, and ranked among the most significant entities of the anarcho-autonomous scene.*

*The AFA describes itself as follows: “The priority of the AFA is to protect the political and public space of the revolutionary anarchist movement, to ensure its expansion through promotion and social struggle, to protect it against the attacks of neo-Nazi and right-wing groups and organisations as well as the **repressive forces of the state administration**. This is the fundamental sense of the existence and work of the Czech AFA, contrary to other foreign organisations holding the same name...**The AFA considers the elimination of capitalism and of the state and the establishment of a free, socially just and class-free society to be a basic precondition of prevention of the rise of fascism and growth of extreme right-wing organisations. This will only be possible at a time of real social change, reached through a social revolution, which will be initiated by the revolutionary anarchist movement. In terms of its long-term revolutionary objective, the AFA sees its task as preparing the conditions for such revolutionary changes”<sup>74</sup> .....AFA strictly rejects pacifism in the antifascist movement and considers this to be a poison which has caused millions to die and suffer. The AFA is going to spread its militant spirit in its antifascist struggle”<sup>75</sup> .....***

The AFA operates in the Prague, Brno, Northern Bohemia, and Zlin regions. It published a journal: **AKCE! (ACTION!)** and set up an e-mail mailing list.

## **Activities in 2001**

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<sup>73</sup> Downloaded on 2 April 2001

<sup>74</sup> Antifascist Action, Brno, 31 July 2000

<sup>75</sup> Antifascist Action Brno, 31 July 2000.

In 2001, the AFA organised several differently focused protest actions or participated in some events held by similarly oriented groups.

In March 2001, a demonstration of anarcho-autonomist activists was arranged in front of the premises where the Congress of the right-wing Patriotic Republican Party was held. The reason for the protest was the fact that the majority of the members of the former ultra right-wing organisation the National Alliance, and some members of the neo-Nazi National Resistance, had joined the PRP. The AFA became the principal organiser of the demonstration against the PRPO Congress. In addition to the AFA and CSAF organisations members and supporters of the Czechoslovak Anarchist Association (CAS), the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchist - Solidarity (ORAS) and the Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) took part in the demonstration. This demonstration became one of the last attempts at a **violent event of mass nature**. The Police of the Czech Republic terminated this attempt.

In July 2001, the AFA organised the so-called AFA camp at which participants discussed, *inter alia*, the work of militants in the Czech Republic and in Europe. The AFA then concentrated on an action organised to celebrate 28 October 2001, and on a long-term campaign project known as the "Campaign Against NATO". On 29 September 2001 a demonstration was held in Nachod by left-wing radicals who, during the course of this event, professed to being from the movement of the Antifascist Action (AFA) Prague. The participants of this demonstration expressed themselves with slogans and speeches against right-wing extremism, particularly against a published newspaper called Nachodsky necas (Nachod Untimely)<sup>76</sup>, and also against the operations of the right-wing extremist organisation NSB. The participants of this demonstration listened to a speech the content of which was, *inter alia*, criticism of M.Rousek, a member of Nachod municipal council, and a call for his resignation. Furthermore, the speech criticised the Czech police for their being tolerant towards the right-wing movement in Nachod.<sup>77</sup>

The AFA organised on 27 October 2001 its Congress held in Prague, in CLUB 007 at Strahov. About 30 AFA members or supporters attended it. The congress decided that journal Akce (Action) would be published quarterly, always before the celebrations of the 1<sup>st</sup> May and 28 October with other editions to be published accordingly. Individual AFA groups committed themselves to sending e-mails about their activities and actions to Prague.

The AFA also set up new Internet pages on which it disclosed **The Programme Strategy of the Czech Antifascist Action** ".<sup>78</sup> This, *inter alia*, contains:

*" A real antifascist struggle cannot be led by police, courts of justice or administrative machinery, but only through the direct action of endangered groups. The antifascist struggle is not just loud anti-racism in a democratic coat. It is mainly an action from the bottom of society, a combat which is held on more fronts – both against bullying right-wingers and against those who deprive us of our social rights and pass workers into the hands of fascists promising to improve the economic situation ...*

*...Antifascists can put up stiff resistance to their enemies from the ultra right and the state only if they are well organised and if they have sufficient background. All this is the task of a revolutionary organisation such as the AFA. **The Antifascist Action assembles those who***

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<sup>76</sup> Nachodsky necas is published by Miroslav Rousek, the chief editor is Jan Kopal, the chairman of the Right Alternative.

<sup>77</sup> M. Rousek, who wanted to talk with the demonstrators, was attacked during the demonstration. The participants started to throw tomatoes at him and he left. At this very moment the reporter of the CPA who was just approaching the crowd trying to get some information was physically attacked. The Czech police apprehended the attacker.

<sup>78</sup> These web-sites are contained in the section Monitoring photos of "neo-Nazis" and "boneheads" with their full addresses, phone numbers or mobile phone numbers, or a commentary. There is also a list containing contacts and addresses of "Czech neo-Nazis". Downloaded on 12 February 2002.

*have decided not to give in easily against the growth of Nazi and racial activities and the state system of repression. We are not going to just watch murderous racists, police despotism and terror any longer. Our journey is the antifascist combat of organised groups which confront neo-Nazi activities. Our combat has many forms, from monitoring ultra right-wing activities ... through efforts towards the public confrontation of Nazis during their rallies and demonstrations, including direct fight against them....*

*...Nowadays, AFA activities are directed especially towards efforts to suppress a unified neo-Nazi movement in the Czech Republic in the form of the newly established ultra right-wing party – the National Social Block...<sup>79</sup>*

In 2001, the AFA maintained contact with similar foreign groups mainly in Germany (in particular in Göttingen, Dresden, and Berlin), in Denmark and Sweden, where, however, the scene was marked by taking a number of activists into custody after their protests in Göteborg. With groups operating in England contact is more or less only of a written nature.<sup>80</sup>

### **The Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists Solidarity (ORAS)**

An unregistered organisation established from the Moravian group of syndicalists - Solidarity - which originally came into existence in 1996 by separating itself from the then CAF (the current CSAF). Since its foundation, the ORAS has concentrated on a programme of social self-governance and industrial syndicalism.

The principal objective of ORSA is freedom for each individual. However, the struggle for an individual is conditional upon a collective struggle against an economic system based on the oppression of free development of the individual. ORAS suggests that anarchist activists participate in the everyday social fight of workers, in day-to-day discussions with workers, disseminating anarchist ideas and supporting self-governing organisations. A special emphasis is put on the role of trade unions. It suggests that trade unions should end bureaucracy and intensify the involvement of workers in their activities. An essential part of the transformation should be an increase in solidarity both inside and outside of trade unions, not only at a national level but also in the international environment.

This organisation published **Solidarita** journal.

The following organisations may be mentioned as being marginal: Socialist Solidarity, the Socialist Workers' Organisation and the Antimilitarist Initiative (AI). In 2001, as in 2000, the membership base in these organisations only consisted of a few individuals, and was very unstable. Besides their participation in various assemblies, independent actions of the Socialist Organisations of Workers (SOW) can also be mentioned. Its principal activities concentrated on a campaign against the US attacks in Afghanistan. On 29 September 2001 at the Prague Castle Square in Prague it also organised a "*demonstration against the war in Afghanistan and against American war globalisation*". This demonstration was attended by about 40 people mainly including members of the SOW, Globalise Resistance! (GR!), Future, and the Communist Union of Youth (CUY). After a speech a letter addressed to the President of the Republic was handed over and there was then a march to the American embassy where

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<sup>79</sup> AFA CZ! Against fascism and social oppression! The programme strategy of the Czech Antifascist Action, Downloaded on 12 March 2002. Recently the AFA has disclosed on its web-sites an alleged invitation of the National Resistance for the 1 May demonstration in Brno. Regarding this fact the AFA calls for an anti-demonstration because: "...*These neo-Nazis from the National Resistance have a very weak membership base in Brno and it is merely this demonstration which will serve them to acquire new supporters who will be willing to fight for the cleanness of the race and the nation, and at the same time it is meant to positively affect the general public. Come and say NO ...*" Downloaded on 18 April 2002.

<sup>80</sup> English AFA journal FIGHTING TALK announced an interview with the AFA Prague organisation.

the participants were halted by the Czech police, after which they peacefully broke up. A similar event was organised by the Antimilitarist Initiative (AI). It organised a demonstration on 4 October 2001 in Prague on Wenceslav Square against the war in Afghanistan. AFA, CSAF, and Feminist Group of 8 March members and supporters took part in it. The AI made a statement in which, *inter alia*, it says: “ *We are full of, on one hand, indignation because of the terrorist attacks, and on the other hand, sympathy with the victims and a resistance which we feel toward the attackers, such as which does not reckon us on a par with all those who request ruthless revenge. We reject the launching of any war operations on the basis of questionable traces and hasty statements unsubstantiated by evidence. We do not intend to be on any fighting side. We reject terrorism against civil victims as well as any violence of power. We recognise only the combat of people against state, and as well against non-governmental structures striving for power, which are the real sources of terrorism*”.

During the course of 2001 new groups emerged on the anarcho-autonomous scene. Platforms GR! and Stop the War! along with the Feminist Group of 8 March (FG8M) and Los amigos de Durrutti belonged among them.

A group called **Globalise Resistance! (GR!) represents** a brand new anti-global platform established on the basis of Trotskyist ideology. It was founded in June 2001 and consisted of SOW, the Social Alternative of Women (SAW), the Socialist Solidarity (SoSo), and the Movement for Just Society and Love for Man (MJSLM). This platform was an umbrella for’ the participation of Czech citizens in demonstrations in Genoa/ during the G8 Meeting. Compared to anarcho-autonomists who do not wish to make violent protest actions, **Trotskyists perceive anti-global activities as a new form of anti-capitalist struggle.** One of the main objectives of the **GR! platform is organising a campaign against the NATO summit in Prague in November 2002.**

Another new group is a **Trotskyist and ultra left-wing platform known as “STOP THE WAR!”** established in connection with the activities of the USA and their allies in Afghanistan. This platform enjoys for example the support of anti-global platform GR! and the Socialist Organisation of Workers (SOW). In a call published by this platform, on SOW’s web-sites, we can read: “*war crusade is abused by the governments of an anti-terrorist coalition to limit democratic and civil rights, against all critical voices and especially against strengthening anti-global movement. The USA does not have any right to intervene in Afghanistan. To grapple with the regime of the Taliban and with the AL QUAIDA organisation must be the business of the Afghan people*”.

At the beginning of March 2001, anarchist girls (particularly from CSAF and ORA) established their own group under the name **the feminist Group of 8 March (FG8M)**. During 2001 activists from this group regularly participated in various actions held by anarchist and autonomous groups.

Finally it is possible to mention the anarchist group **Los amigos de Durruti** which was established with the active assistance of an anarchist from Prerov and a member of the CSAF. This group professes the heritage of a Spanish idealist who devoted all his life to his conviction of anarchist ideology and was killed on the Madrid front in 1937. Three branches were set up in Moravia during 2001. The group consists of approximately 20 members. These members decided to quarterly publish their own republic-wide cultural and political journal targeting anarchist culture, policy and mainly trade unions.

### **3.3.2 Neo-Bolshevik and Pan-Slavonic Groups and Organisations**

**The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC, formerly the Party of Czechoslovak Communists – PCC)**

The PCC/CPC was established on 22 April 1995 at the Restoration Congress, and afterwards was registered with the Ministry of the Interior. It is a political entity ideologically based on Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Yet through the name PCC it declared its continuity with the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC) that governed Czechoslovakia from 1948 until 1989 and that was by Act No 198/1993 Coll. of 9 July 1993, on the Illegitimacy of the Communist Regime and Resistance Against It, declared to be a criminal and abominable organisation. In 2000 the party confirmed such a view by changing its name to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and was registered by the Ministry of the Interior on 16 February 2000.

Under Section 8 (1) of Act No. 424/1991 Coll., a decision regarding registration of a new party or movement, or the registration of any changes in a party's Statutes, should be exclusively based upon the Statutes of the organisation in question. The reason for rejecting any such registration may only be that what is stated in the Statutes is found to be inconsistent with Sections 1-5 and 6 (3)(4) of the Act. As those activities declared in the Statutes did not contradict the cited rule of law, there was not any reason for rejecting the changes in the Statutes in question.

**Chairman:** Ing. Miroslav Stepan

**Registered seat:** Praha

**Membership base** consists of approximately 18 600 regular members (according to M. Stepan)

**Periodicals:** Ceskoslovensky komunista/Jiskra (Czechoslovak Communist/Spark)<sup>81</sup>

### **Activities in 2001**

In 2001, the CPC again represented a political group based directly on Marxism-Leninism, declaring as its objective the establishment of a "dictatorship of the proletariat" in the Czech Republic. The activities of the CPC aimed at establishing a totalitarian system suppressing human and civic rights and freedoms; a system which is not compatible with a plural democracy and the conception of a legal state (i.e. that a law is superior to a state).

The situation in the CPC was marked by an internal split created by a North-Moravian wing of the CPC at the beginning of 2001. This rupture reflected in the Prague and North-Moravian wings of the party.

Disputes started to be visible after the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the party and climaxed in the calling of the **20<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary CPC Congress to Bruntal (25 February 2001)**<sup>82</sup>, initiated by the North-Moravian wing headed by L. Zifcak. More than a hundred delegates from all regions of the Czech Republic decided to merge with the unregistered Czechoslovak Party of Work (CSPW) and to change the name of the party to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia – the Czechoslovak Party of Work (CPC – CSPW). During the Congress a new board of the party was elected. L. Zifcak, the then secretary of the North-Moravian CPC,

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<sup>81</sup> Opinions similar to those of the CPC are also presented by a journal called "Dialogue – Questions, Answers" which is not however the periodical published by the CPC. A North-Moravian wing of the CPC presenting itself as CPC-CSPW, tries to be more visible through its periodical called "New Bruntal Region".

<sup>82</sup> On 23 February 2002 the nation-wide get-together – the 10<sup>th</sup> public meeting of the Central Committee of the CPC attended by over 300 participants from the whole Czech Republic - announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Congress would be held in December 2002. Thus the CPC obviously showed that it was the only authentic communist party of this name and that it does not take into consideration the foundation of the CPC – CSPW and any of "its successors". See The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. From the discussion of the CPC bodies. Downloaded on 11 March 2002.

was elected to chair the party, while M. Stepan and “his group” were excluded.<sup>83</sup> Participants of the “International Communist Seminar” held in Brussels in May 2001 were informed accordingly.<sup>84</sup>

The intentions of the CPC – CSPW were declared in November 2001 as follows:

*“The world opinion, pillar and basic ideological and practical-political orientation of the CPC – CSPW is still alive, the scientific doctrine of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin constantly developed by a dialectic creative method, along with an unbreakable historical example of activities carried out by these foremost theoretical as well as practical scientists of workers’ movement regardless of all defamation and lies disseminated by the modern bourgeois propaganda.*

*The Party unambiguously focuses its policy, both in terms of its nature and a programme profile, on 1992 Pchjongjang Call, and especially on the Brussels Declaration of 1995 as well as on all anti-global, anti-imperialist, proletarian, mainly Marxist-Leninist groups and consistently revolutionary groups, directions, parties, and streams rejecting in theory and in practice any manifestations of a “peaceful”, “democratic” conciliatory spirit, a renegade lack of principle, bourgeois state-formation or any form of revisionism, “anti-Stalinism” or Trotskyism...”*<sup>85</sup>

The target of the CPC – CSPW is within ten years to take responsibility of the state and nationalise significant enterprises which had belonged to the state until 1989.

The North-Moravian Wing of the CPC and the Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia (CYCS) made use of the possibility to become more visible through the detainment of Czech citizens CI. Pilip and J. Bubenik in Cuba. New Bruntal Region Weekly published “Responses of the Czech Left Related to the Detainment of Agents – Pilip and Bubenik”. The most radical opinion was taken by the North-Moravian CPC – CSPW board headed by L. Zifcak,<sup>86</sup> and was presented by both the Czech Press Agency and by the Cuban Embassy. In 2001, it was possible to notice the efforts of M. Zifcak in involvement with a renewal of activities

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<sup>83</sup> The CPC – CSPW kept aloof from “unprincipled, careerist, bureaucratic and, from many points of view, opportunistic methods, principles and the manner of the previous M. Stepan’s management and his group”. See A brief Survey of CPC – CSPW. Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

<sup>84</sup> In April 2001 the CPC – CSPW sent a document “*Communists in the Contemporary Czech Republic (A Contribution by the CPC – CSPW to the International Communist Seminar)*” to Brussels. This material, *inter alia*, stated that: “...suspicion increased among some members that M. Stepan is double-dealing and is in foreign services. These members informed the embassies of several countries about the strange activities of M. Stepan, As real communists are sure that splitting of communist power is beneficial only for reaction – the Extraordinary Congress of the CPC was called on 25 February 2001 where CPC merged with the CSPW to create a party called CPC – CSPW. At the same time the Congress of the CPC – CSPW elected the management of the party without M. Stepan.” Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

<sup>85</sup> A brief Survey of CPC – CSPW. The Executive Committee of the CPC – CSPW, November 2001. Downloaded on 2 April 2002.

<sup>86</sup> In its declaration, the CPC-CSPW stated: “Our party expresses unambiguous support for all actions and steps taken by the Cuban authorities concerning the apprehension ... by committing certain offences Pilip and Bubenik have become undoubtedly the direct tools of abusive prying into Cuban internal affairs and have become immediate puppets in the hands of hegemonic and state terrorist foreign policy of the USA. As a matter of fact the United States have led dirty genocide, economic or other wars against Cuba for more than 40 years ... and the so-called “anti-Cuban” opposition is not anything other than an extended hand and a tool of such perverted efforts aimed at destroying the Cuban revolution and its yields...this revolution as the first one in the Western hemisphere gained through fighting consistent freedom and independence from the ruling oligarchy of the US and the IMF ... **it is inspiring for all others who are devotedly combating a contemporary perverted capitalist order and its inhuman globalisation**”. Representatives of the Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia and the Unified Front expressed a similar opinion: “*Every real communist must unambiguously require the strictest punishment for Ivan Pilip and Jan Bubenik directly in Cuba in compliance with the Cuban valid revolutionary laws.*” See Nove Bruntalsko (New Bruntal region), 2001, No. 3.

previously carried out by the Moravian National Party (MNP)<sup>87</sup> in negotiations with M. Sladek.

The General Secretary of the CPC, M. Stepan, tried to brush off the division in the party, rejecting it saying that L. Zifcak had not been a member of the party for more than a year, and therefore the party disregarded his activities.

In May the CPC organised a festive meeting attended by foreign guests to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Party. However instead of planned “numerous international guests”, only delegations of communists from Slovakia and Germany participated in the meeting.

The meeting dealt with evaluating the eighty-years’ existence of the CPC, emphasising positive as well as negative experiences. M. Stepan expressed his opinion that *“the adverse situation after the defeat of socialism by the counter-revolution in 1989, and an assessment of uniform regularities leads the CPC to the conviction that the process of the renewal of socialism is irreversible”*. At this meeting **“the CPC unambiguously and unconditionally professed to holding to its past beliefs”**. According to M. Stepan this meeting stressed the connection between the construction of socialism after 1948 and the taking of experiences from the USSR and from the CP of the USSR. The CPC professed to its conviction in Marxism-Leninism, since without V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin the CPC would not have come into existence. Excesses, which happened during the development of the CPC, were assessed as aberrations having direct links to the development of external relations. Taking account of the afore-mentioned, the development of the after February CPC must be evaluated with respect to external influences, i.e. the international situation and the period of the “Cold War”, embargoes, etc. Historical development cannot be objectively evaluated without considering international relations and influences. The basis of not repeating such excesses is faithfulness to Marxism-Leninism. At the same time, the CPC rejects new tendentious explanations of the doctrines of Marx, Engels and Lenin. The CPC looked to the heritage of Klement Gottwald and emphasised his role in the development of the Party which he led to victorious socialism and to the start of building socialism.

The meeting took a view of the so-called counter-revolution in 1989 according to which it considered that it had basically been caused by the treason against the working class and communist movement. According to the CPC it was Gorbachev who was undoubtedly responsible, as a “traitor and agent of imperialism along with his supporters who unambiguously betrayed socialism and dishonestly sold themselves to imperialism”.

In connection with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CPC, the meeting outlined the way forward for the renewal of socialism. It stated that Czechoslovakia was devastated during its historical development twice – the first time by fascism, and the second time by the after-November political “team” which “undoubtedly committed treason”. The Central Committee of the CPC received a message from communist parties professing to real socialism.

In October 2001 (31 October) the CPC held a press conference managed by M. Stepan, who said:

*“The CPC, in its declaration concerning the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of an independent Czechoslovakia, appreciated the foundation of this state as a significant stabilising factor for the Central European region. Unfortunately, after November the Czechoslovak state was liquidated for the second time. The first liquidation was caused by fascism, the second by the existence of after-November representatives. The CPC in the both cases can see a common reason – the total failure of democracy, giving priority to bourgeois and imperial visions. In both cases rich imperialist states benefited from the split up of*

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<sup>87</sup> The Moravian National party (MNP) was registered by the Ministry of the Interior on 28 September 1990. It was dissolved by the decision taken by the MNP Congress on 5 April 1997.

*Czechoslovakia. The establishment of the Czechoslovak state was in the interest of the Czechoslovak people and in the interest of stability in Europe. On the contrary, the split up of Czechoslovakia was, in both cases, treason.*”<sup>88</sup>

The whole of the CPC denounced unconditionally the terrorist attack on the USA of 11 September and at the same time denounced a violent political solution. The party also denounced other terrorism within the world. Terrorism emerges everywhere where democracy has failed. According to the CPC it is necessary to “address objectively all these issues pointing to actual problems”. M. Stepan at the same time expressed his concerns that “the current situation could in the former socialist countries bring the temptation to consider everything which is related to “the struggle for progress” as terrorism and this could be abused in “suppressing progressive powers””.<sup>89</sup>

Furthermore, M. Stepan stated that “the terrorist attack on the USA of 11 September reflects the supra-powerful policy of the United States itself. However, the CPC is against such and any other kind of a terrorist attack. From his point of view this attack was not aimed against American people, but against powerful people, against globalisers. Despite this it is necessary to denounce the attack because it considerably impacted upon the American people, and moreover any terrorism is unjust. After-November political representation in Czechoslovakian, and afterwards in the Czech Republic, has credit for terrorist danger by its having given a clear signal with the rehabilitation of murderers, spies, terrorists, etc.”

According to the CPC “it is necessary to wipe out terrorism all over the world”, but the war in Afghanistan is not combat against terrorism, it is a struggle of those who are strong enough to extend their world-wide rule, of those who are strong enough to wipe out everything that stands in their way or everything that is inconvenient for them. The strengthening American presence in Afghanistan is only another attempt by America towards further capitalisation of the Caspian region. Not a single war which took place from the Second World War has been without “small thanks to America”, including the endless conflict in the Middle East between Palestine and Israel. Last but not least, the current situation in Afghanistan is also undoubtedly caused by the USA as the Taliban is a “legitimate child of the USA”.

The CPC again confirmed that it ideologically identifies itself with the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, and openly professes itself to be a successor of the totalitarian political party, the before-November CPC.

The Board of the Central Committee of the CPC decided on 9 March 2002 that the CPC would not participate in the elections to be held in June 2002. This was substantiated by an explanation that “the CPC did not want to participate in the renewal of capitalism and took the view that not voting is a choice as well”.<sup>90</sup> According to a proclamation by M. Stepan this decision does not relate to November Senate and municipal elections.

**This party’s activities are currently documented in terms of facts significant for the application of procedure in accordance with Act No. 424/1991 Coll. on the Cancellation of a Party or a Movement by Decision of the Supreme Court of the Czech**

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<sup>88</sup> Furthermore, M. Stepan was horrified by the speech of President Havel concerning the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia and declared it to be “*an expression of ideological and ethical extremism*”.

<sup>89</sup> With regard to this situation the CPC invited the members of the Government, the Parliament and the Senate to evidence, in interest of ethical principles, whom of them, or whom of their sons had a “blue book”, or who participated in alternative military service. Those who essentially proved their resistance towards meeting such honourable duty, do not have any right to drive Czech soldiers to any war conflicts and to jeopardise the Czech nation. The Government, Parliament and Senate are missing, according to the CPC, any political as well as moral responsibility, not to mention the President.

<sup>90</sup> Downloaded on 5 April 2002

**Republic. It is assumed that the Ministry of the Interior will draw up a document for the meeting of the Government relating to the filing of a relevant decision with the Court.**

### **The Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia (CYC)**

This unregistered organisation was established in April 1999. Neither formally nor organisationally is it a part of the CPC, although it operates as its organisation for young people. They publish a journal called **Pochoden** (“**Torch**”).

The organisation defines itself as follows *”Our organisation, comprising of about 150 people, operates in the whole of the Republic. It is strongest in North Moravia and Silesia. We organise events (such as demonstrations, protests, provocations ...) and strive to fight in the spirit of Marx, Engels and Lenin for socialism and communism.*

*We are a warlike group of young people co-operating with the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC). We also maintain contact with the Communist Union of Youth (CUY) and a few revolutionary members of the CPBM. Further, we develop contacts with the Movement for Self-governed Moravia and Silesia (MSMS), together with which we organised actions against the bombing in Yugoslavia.*

*We are against NATO, the EU, and against capitalism. We do not intend to co-operate with any of the bourgeois parliamentary parties, including the CPBM, unless they change their revisionist and opportunistic line”.*<sup>91</sup>

“The Vice-Chairman of the CPC and press speaker of the Unified Front (UF), David Pecha, was charged with the crime of supporting and propagating movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. In addition he faces indictment for insinuation and the spreading of alarming news In his self-published journal (so-called samizdat) **Pochoden** (**Torch**) he challenged people to act in favour of the proletariat dictatorship and nationalisation, even with the help of violence. In one issue of Pochoden he printed photographs of foremost Czech politicians who were labelled “criminal traitors”. D. Pecha previously admitted that his conduct was unlawful.

### **The Communist Movement of Czechoslovakia (CMC)**

An unregistered organisation. The CMC applied for its registration as a civic association with the Ministry of the Interior in February 2000; such registration was rejected. Proceedings concerning a legal remedy were suspended by the Resolution of the Supreme Court from 22 January 2002 since legal charges related to the proposal to commence such proceedings had not been paid.

On the pages of *Pochoden* (Torch) (October 2000) the CMC presented itself as a unit of a revolutionary movement that unifies active, militant and Marxist oriented people (particularly young people) from various communist parties and organisations. **The CMC strives for a revolutionary struggle against capitalism and the kind of state entailed by capitalism.** The movement considers the recently renewed Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC) and its youth organisation, the Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia (CYC), to be its main links and closest entities. However, members of other organisations as well as people who are not members of any party are able to become members of this movement.

*”The CMC is aware that without activity, without its own radical activities and without a stronger struggle by the majority of people it is not possible to renew socialism. The movement contributes to this struggle, initiates, educates and organises it. It disseminates socialist ideas, and makes an effort to unify the communist movement so that*

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<sup>91</sup> Welcome on the web-sites of the Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia. Downloaded on 6 November .2000

*it comes to its final victory in the next (and not only) struggle of our nation. SOCIALISM IS UNAVOIDABLE! JOIN US AS WELL!!!*<sup>92</sup>

### **The Unified Front (UF)**<sup>93</sup>

This unregistered organisation was established at the turn of 1999 and 2000 with the intention of operating as an organisation integrating various extremist or radical streams. The Communist Movement of Czechoslovakia (CMC) and the Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia (CYC) especially participate in the activities of this newly established organisation. The above-mentioned organisations operated in 2000 particularly under the auspices of the UF.

### **“Pan-Slavonic Orientation”**

Support for the **programme of “pan-Slavonic mutuality” is spread among left-wing extremists of a mainly neo-Bolshevik orientation.** In their opinion, after the break-up of the socialist block, countries in Central Europe with a predominantly Slav population are threatened by an aggressive “Germanisation” masked by the integration process of NATO and EU accession. Thus, the Slavonic nations only have the option of preserving their identity and independence – **of contributing to the powerful position of Russia and integrating themselves into its sphere of influence.**

The principal representative of “Slavonic mutuality” is the **International Slav Committee**, whose seat is in Moscow. Pan-Slavonism is becoming an important international activity which will, no doubt, serve various power aims, since the idea of Pan-Slavonism is relevant to both non-communist public and right-wing extreme nationalists thanks to a stressing of “national interests”.<sup>94</sup>

### **The Slav Committee of the Czech Republic (SC CR)**<sup>95</sup>

An organisation registered with the Ministry of the Interior on 24 April 1998.

In 1998 this organisation arranged a Pan-Slavonic Congress with an attendance of 5000 delegates from 12 Slav countries. The congress adopted the following documents: the

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<sup>92</sup> <http://www.mujweb.cz/www/pochoden/rijen2000.htm>: Join the Communist Movement of Czechoslovakia. Downloaded 2 April 2001.

<sup>93</sup> For more detail see Miroslav Mares, Sjednocena fronta (The Unified Front). In: Analyzy a studie (Analyses and Studies) 4, 3/2001, Ustav strategickych studii Masarykovy univerzity v Brne (The Institute of Strategic Studies of Masaryk University in Brno)

<sup>94</sup> Downloaded on 3 April 2001.

<sup>95</sup> According to the Security Intelligence Service the Slav Committee of the Czech Republic’s and the International Slav Committee’s objective is the unification of all Slav countries including the strengthening of Russia as a world power to be a counterbalance to the democratic structures of the Western world because “a unipolar globalised world is a pathological, rotten anomaly threatening civilisation!” With regards to the fact that everything “Western” is rejected and attacked by the SC CR as an attempt towards Germanisation, for installing world-rule, for racist hate towards Slavs, “mainly against Russia”, etc, it is obvious that Pan-Slavonic entities see the only alternative in creating a Pan-Slav society in the form of an inter-state structure, as a counterbalance toward the USA, NATO, “global forces”, etc, and their efforts to divide and split off Slavs territorially, to exploit and enslave them. Only association of Slav countries and their joint action against such efforts enable Slavs their future existence. **Having regard to these facts, the SC CR is included in the Report on Extremist Issues in the Czech Republic and it is not possible in any event to talk in this context about “an attempt” to subordinate the freedom of opinions of a Czech citizen to a sort of contemporary censorship and ideological unification.**

Manifesto of the 1998 Pan-Slavonic Congress in Prague; a Proclamation to the Nations of Slav Countries, their Heads, Parliaments and Government, Leading Representatives of Social Movements and Political Parties; a Call to the Parliaments and Governments of Slav Countries to Establish an Inter-Parliamentary Union; a Call to the Parliaments and Governments of Slav Countries to Mutually Repeal Visas and Consular Fees to Ensure Free Movement of Citizens of those Countries; a resolution supporting the indivisibility and inviolability of Serbia; and a resolution concerning the necessity of cancellation of international prohibitions and sanctions against the citizens of Yugoslavia.<sup>96</sup>

**Press:** a journal called *Slovanska vzajemnost*, i.e. Slav Mutuality (published monthly); its objective is to provide information on political and economic issues which are interesting subjects to the SC CR, as well as information from Slav countries, and information on the activities of the International Slav Committee.<sup>97</sup>

### Activities in 2001

In the Pan-Slavonic organisation headed by the Slav Committee of the Czech Republic, a fundamental part of activities during the first half of 2001 was devoted to the preparation of the April Pan-Slav Congress in Moscow. The Congress was to contribute to bringing the multiform Slav nation closer in preservation and development of their distinctive traditions, friendship and mutuality among nations, strengthening peace on the principles of equality, freedom, and sovereignty.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-Slavonic Congress was held in Moscow on 2–5 April 2001, actually a year earlier than had been agreed upon. This was justified by the need for “a response to the expansion of imperialistic intervention in the world”. The Congress had another context – it became a celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the union of Russia and Belarus.<sup>98</sup> Approximately 1,200 delegates took part in it and all Slav states with the exception of Serbia were represented. A 24-member delegation was sent from the Czech Republic.

N. I. Kikishev, the chairman of the International Organisational Committee of the Pan-Slav Congress and the chairman of the Slav Committee of Russia, officially opened the meeting. In his speech he criticised NATO aggression and its expansion in Europe, and at the same time he emphasised his happiness that a protest had been lodged against the apprehension of the former Yugoslavian President, Slobodan Miloschevic. He stated that “...*the USA and their allies, who megalomaniacally assume the right to dictate their rules on how the nations of the whole world should behave gained advantage from the crisis of Slav nations...*” and called for “*the establishment of an inter-state structure in the interest of unity of the Slav countries, as was created by the countries of Western Europe that unified in the European Union ‘...’*”<sup>99</sup> The Czech delegation rejected “*dragging the Czech Republic into NATO and the European Union, the tools of criminal capitalist globalisation*”.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Downloaded on 3 April 2002

<sup>97</sup> **Web-sites presenting this journal have not been updated for quite a long period of time.**

<sup>98</sup> In 2001, 60 years have passed since the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War and the organisation of the Pan-Slav “radio-meeting” in Moscow where the Pan-Slav Committee was established which declared war for the liberation of Slavs from German occupants. The delegates devote a numbers of speeches to this topic.

<sup>99</sup> See Halo noviny (Halo Newspaper) from 4 April 2001. Pan-Slavism is the hope of Slav nations which can be stopped, neither by a dollar.

<sup>100</sup> See Halo noviny (Halo Newspaper) from 4 April 2001. Discussion in 21 sections had similar wording. For example, a representative of Belarus stated in his plenary presentation that “...*Americans are forcing the obedience of the international community. Only the unity of Slav states led in the forefront by the national forces headed by Russia is able to square this evil at the threshold of the third millennium*”. Then he mentioned “*the tragic reality that the political heads of many Slav countries are Presidents obedient to America and selected by Washington, who obsequiously and openly fulfil US orders which can be evidenced by the order to imprison the*

During the Congress Professor Ing. Bretislav Chvala, DrSc was again confirmed in his office of chairman of the International Slav Committee. However he died soon after the Congress and N. I. Kikischev has become the chairman of the ISC. As chairman of the Slav Committee of the Czech Republic, Professor Chvala was replaced by Jan Minar.

The objective of the Congress was to strengthen the international movement for Slav unity and to help to broaden the integration processes in the Slav world. A draft document called "*The Doctrine of the International Union of Social Associations – the Pan-Slav Congress*" was submitted to the delegates for their assessment.

The Congress "*approved the proclamation...of support of Lusatian Serbians endangered by Germanisation and deprived of rights to their native language and culture which the ruling classes in Germany deny. In its protest resolution the Congress denounced the apprehension of the former Yugoslavian President, Slobodan Miloschevic...and further it confirmed the composition of the International Slav Committee as being in compliance with the resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pan-Slav Congress held in Prague in 1998 ...it authorised the Board of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-Slav Congress and the Proposal Committee to complete congress documents particularly in the field of international security, world-wide ecology, and in ensuring conditions for preserving mankind on Earth. At the same time the Congress supported the unification of Slavs and ensuring their rights for survival in the period of American global fascism which unscrupulously usurps the right for world-rule detrimental to Slav nations*".

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Among the activities that the Slav Committee of the Czech Republic was involved in 2001 is for example a meeting relating to the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state, held along with other left-wing organisations on 29 October 2001 at Prague Castle Square. The main representatives of the participating entities made speeches. The speeches were against "dragging the Czech Republic into the "warrior" treaty of NATO and its criminal war against the brotherhood of Yugoslavia, against accession to the EU, which was described as so-called "new slavery of our nation", or against the war in Afghanistan, whereupon speakers "denounced both terrorist attacks against the USA and attacks by the United States on Afghanistan". According to their visions they appealed for the

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*former Yugoslavian President, Slobodan Miloschevic...*" Marshal Dimitrij Jazov was one of the lecturers in the section dealing with the international results of the World War Two. He spoke about the division of Russian and extension of NATO by new member states from Europe. He stressed that "*for example in Poland a range of special police task forces were being established. All these aspects give the impression that NATO intends to attack Russia in the future*".

<sup>101</sup> See Halo noviny (Halo Newspaper) from 5 April 2001: Message of the Pan-Slav Congress on Unity of Slavs. Also see Spigl, vol. 12, No. 90, 17 April 2001: "*The VIII Pan-Slav Congress 2001 in Moscow. Slavs must defend themselves against enslavement from the side of world imperialists*". Spigl, vol. 12, No. 91, 18 April, 2001: "*The Czechs had a decisive word. Observations from the VIII. Pan-Slav Congress.*" According to this article the Congress came to the following conclusions: "1. Slavs having 300 million inhabitants represent in the world a great force which must be used; 2. Instead of dividing Slavs and integrating and dissolving them into non-Slav global organisations (NATO, the EU), to create a unified Slav alternative to such associations, and thus to protect Slav culture as well as languages; 3. The Congress denounced the bombing of Yugoslavia as a war crime by NATO and the USA, and proposes bring the offenders to the International Court Tribunal; 4. The Congress unambiguously stood behind setting Ex-President S. Miloschevic free, and declared itself against interference by the NATO countries within the internal matters of Yugoslavia; 5. The Congress supports the unification of Slavs, first of all of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, and wishes this unification to come about by the next Congress. This is the only way to prevent the destruction of the Slav nations." The Moscow Congress suffered from some organisational problems and disputes among delegates. Each section submitted for approval its own final document. The overall evaluation of the Congress and final communiqué were sent to individual participating parties, but were considerably delayed. The current chairman of the ISC, N.I.Kikischev, was authorised to distribute the documents in question.

future and required the “new establishment of a common state of Czechs and Slovaks on a brand-new basis”.

### 3.4 Prague NATO Summit in November 2002

#### Generally

In the years of 2000 and 2001 demonstrations especially relating to the anniversary of the NATO attack on the Union Republic of Yugoslavia were recorded. Mainly in 2001 there were attempts to involve Italian left-wing extremist organisations in organising demonstrations as well. During the course of these two years there were several demonstrations against establishing a new NATO anti-missile shield NATO.

In autumn 2001, a worldwide organisational campaign of left-wing extremists was launched. Its objective was to organise extensive protest actions during a two-day Security Conference held on 1–3 February 2002 in Munich. Organisers distributed materials clearly showing that they did not agree with the military action in Afghanistan and that their goal was to gradually **create from the scheduled NATO meeting a similar opportunity for violent street protests such as the ones held during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Meetings (IMF/WB)**. The calls for protests in Munich again revoked the military operation of NATO in Kosovo. Promotional materials were clear evidence of an effort to reckon the Munich meeting on a par with Seattle, Prague, and Genoa. The heading of some leaflets was “*From Genoa to Munich – Against the Meeting of the World War Elite*“. As soon as in November 2001 a provisional programme of prepared protest actions in Munich was drawn up which proved that organisers of the demonstrations had met directly in the city a long time ahead the conference.<sup>102</sup>

In view of the fact that some organisations which supported protest actions were known to the German security authorities as extreme militant groups (e.g. Red Antifa Nuremberg, To Combat as Antifascists - Munich or Youth Against Racism), the Bavarian Government in co-operation with the Munich Municipal Council adopted necessary measures so that the conference could not be disturbed. Key measures were as follows: a ban on demonstrating in the city of Munich during the conference and stricter border controls with the aim of not allowing the most militant radicals to enter Germany. Many radicals who successfully passed the border control were expelled from the country before they arrived in Munich.<sup>103</sup> At the same time police forces were strengthened.

According to available information, about 3,000 foreign radicals, including demonstrators with experience of street fights on similar occasions, arrived in Munich. Another 4,000 demonstrators arrived from various parts of Germany. Despite the ban on demonstrating there were attempt to call demonstrations.

During demonstrations and the “Anti-Congress“, activists discussed anti-global and social topics in relation to NATO as a military force defending the interest of the economies of the most powerful states of the world headed by the USA.<sup>104</sup> NATO military actions in the

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<sup>102</sup> Planned actions: a protest demonstration in front of the Munich town hall where a meeting of the municipal council of Munich with the participants of the conference was to be held was planned on 1 February 2002. The next day, on 2 February, the “Carnival Against NATO“ was supposed to be organised, this should have been followed by a demonstration near the hotel where the meeting was held, and in the evening there should have been “An Anti-Congress Against Militarism“.

<sup>103</sup> For example the speaker of Italian radicals was apprehended in this manner.

<sup>104</sup> The role of Germany in NATO was stressed and the “Nazi past of Germany” was purposefully remembered so that the racist and antisocial nature of NATO could be derived from it.

former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan were mentioned very frequently. Efforts to connect **new anti-global and traditional pacific topics were apparent.**

## **Protests Against Prague NATO Summit in November 2002**

With regard to the expected meeting of NATO representatives in Prague in November 2002, a single concept of the protest movement dealing with similar strategies did not exist in 2001.<sup>105</sup> It might however be assumed that an anti-summit will be held and that protests will be held with the participation of militant left-wing extremists. Information about preparing protest actions against the NATO summit appeared also in the right-wing spectrum.

In 2001, a meeting initiated by the anarchist organisations CSAF and CAS was held. Its aim was to establish a platform against the NATO meeting in Prague in 2002. This meeting was also attended by representatives of the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists – Solidarity, Street for People, Earth First! the Feminist Group of 8 March, and the Antifascist Action. The Federation of Social Anarchists did not take part in the meeting. A platform against the NATO meeting was set up during the discussions. Its declared objective was to organise mass yet peaceful demonstrations of Czech as well as foreign protesters. *At this moment the CSAF has implemented web-sites which represent an information platform for NATO adversaries.*

In 2001 Trotskyists and communists showed more initiative within anti-global activities in the left-wing spectrum, while anarcho-autonomists rather discussed how to be involved in the anti-global movement. The anti-global platform of GR! was based on Trotskyist ideology. Its aim is to organise a campaign against the NATO summit, but it did not renounce violence. For example, L. Zifcak spoke at a press conference saying that CPC-CSPW (*an unregistered grouping using without any legal grounds the name of the Stepan's party*) members were preparing for summer and autumn 2002 protests actions against the NATO meeting in Prague and that these actions **“would definitely not be held within an obedient and peaceful framework, on the contrary they would raise concern and anxiety”**. According to its statement the CPC-CSPW invited left-wing organisations from Italy, Austria, and Belgium to Prague. In 2001, web-sites of the CPC-CSPW and the July edition of Pochoden (Torch) published for this purpose a form for interested parties.

Opinion discrepancies and disputes about the further involvement of Czech anarcho-autonomists in international anti-global actions undoubtedly impacted the whole scene. With respect to the last two notable occasions of protests by radical fighters against globalisation (Swedish Göteborg and Italian Genoa), and with respect to available information, it should be assumed that protest actions of militant anti-globalists could continue the given trend of growing aggression and violence. One of the main motivations remains the potential for an armed conflict with police forces representing the repressive forces of the state.

It is clear even today that the range of organisations against which anti-globalisation activities are aimed has extended during the recent years. Prague can probably become one of the few world cities having the opportunity to assess “qualitative” changes in the activities of adversaries of globalisation within the period of the last two years.

### Risks

- On the basis of the situation which emerged after the terrorist attacks against the USA it cannot be excluded that right-wing as well as left-wing extremists will become more

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<sup>105</sup> The CSAF did not support the idea of international demonstrations (such as during the IMF/WB in Prague or the ones against the G8 in Genoa), and at the beginning it considered organising on its own a protest campaign against NATO.

radical and that targeted attacks by supporters of both extremes against NATO itself, or against the membership of the Czech Republic in NATO, can be expected.

- A shift in the currently considered activities in protest of the Prague NATO Summit, towards far more radical manifestations of general disagreement with its conduct, is very probable.
- In terms of assessing the possibility of violent protests and attempts to escalate violence it is necessary to take into account those organisations which do not renounce the use of violence (the Antifascist Action-AFA, The federation of Social Anarchists - FSA, the anti-global platform GR!)
- The involvement of experienced foreign activists in strategic preparation of respective violent actions and the arrival of other foreign activists to support such actions may be assumed
- Last but not least it cannot be excluded that the intelligence services of some countries which are generally resistant towards the existence of NATO or towards NATO activities (especially in the field of the current combating of terrorism) will strive to make use of groups declaring themselves as anti-global to force their own goals, i.e. particularly to prevent the realisation of the NATO summit, to gather intelligence information from its discussions, or at least to give the impression of “global” resistance against NATO itself.

### 3.5 Dangerous Sects and Pseudo-religious Organisations<sup>106</sup>

With a range of sects and pseudo-religious organisations operating in the country, the situation in the Czech Republic in 2001 was in no way different to that in other European countries. **In 2001, as well as in previous years, no demonstrable crime by dangerous sects was recorded in the Czech Republic.** In this area, the Czech authorities **can make use of information from abroad and take it into account in their approach.**<sup>107</sup> Despite this, it is essential to note the main potential threats to the state in connection with the existence of such organisations. **In terms of intelligence services, sects could be dangerous if their activities act against the principles of the state. According to the police, a destructive sect is one whose declarations and whose members’ actions are in conflict with criminal law.**

To determine the social danger of a sect it is first of all necessary to assess from all points of views its nature and potential. This means to possess fundamental data such as the number of members of a sect and their locations, the internal structure of a group, contacts abroad, attitude towards the state, sources of income or extension of economic activities. Among the most serious risks is the infiltration of state structures, including the armed forces, by members of pseudo-religious organisations. All over the world these groups try to penetrate state structures with subversive objectives, or with the aim of acquiring know-how, or of gaining positions which would allow them to use their influence to the benefit of the group to which they belong. A further risk is a religious group that is convinced of a mission it is to fulfil – their members may try to gain corresponding technical knowledge in the armed

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<sup>106</sup> This Chapter is drawn up from open sources. See Jiri Dvoracek, *Sekty a nove nabozenke smery na konci milenia* (Sects and Religious Trends at the End of the Millennium) in *Kriminalisticky sbornik*, No. 1, 20001, p. 36-40; Miloslav Zan, *Sekty –aktualni problem* (Sects – an actual problem), In: *Kriminalisticky sbornik*, No. 2, 1999, p. 34-38; Ladislava Kulikova - Lenka Simkova, *Sekty nebo nabozenka hnuti?* (Sects or new religious movements?), In: *Kriminalisticky sbornik*, No. 1, 1999, p. 30-36. A lot of monographic books deal with these issues, described from various points of view.

<sup>107</sup> See Chapter 5. The Extremist Scene in the Central European Geopolitical Area. Dangerous religious sects and pseudo-religious organisation issues.

forces or may use violent means against the armed forces as a symbol of the “despised state”. Threats coming unexpectedly from small groups which had not previously been recorded as a potential threat tend to be the most dangerous. Even a less numerous and unorganised sect can become dangerous in the event that its members have links to members of terrorist, extremist, and other criminal organisations. This is a new point of view which should be taken into account after the terrorist attack committed against the United States on 11 September 2001.

Most sects however do not make themselves visible and establish their communities in seclusion and in remote areas. The security units are informed of such communities after affected persons lodge complaints, or on the basis of local and personal information and findings.<sup>108</sup> ***This is a very complicated issue which is not approached uniformly in European countries and is the subject of extensive discussions.***

In 2001, as in the previous year, the Ministry of Culture did not find, within its scope of powers, any churches, religious societies or legal religious entities registered with the Ministry which showed any activity that could be regarded as a misdemeanour or criminal offence motivated by racism, xenophobia or religious intolerance. No application for registering a religious community was submitted in terms of which the Ministry of Culture, as the registering body, was made to assess the establishment or activities of an applying entity by aspects which are subject to measures adopted by the Government to increase the efficiency of punishment and prevention of crime and misdemeanour based on the support, propagation or dissemination of extremist ideologies and attitudes as well as activities of extremist groups operating in the Czech Republic and crimes of a racial nature.

### **3.6 Terrorism as a Potential Means of Achieving Extremist Objectives<sup>109</sup>**

**Terrorism is a violent method of threatening political opponents using violence and threats of violence. Persons employing terror attempt to create extreme psychological pressure among individuals and groups of citizens.**

Manifestations of terrorism are affected by the internal political situation and by development in the international situation. Generally, the Czech extremist scene, as any other similar scene, is a classic environment for the emergence of politically oriented internal terrorist activities. The main potential risk here is the radicalisation of domestic extremist groups, their links to more militant foreign groups, and their potential misuse by other organisations for their own purposes or interests. The possibility of a single, spontaneous reaction by an individual or a small group still remains.

### **3.7 Notes to a Relation of Some Subcultures to Extremist Manifestations**

#### **SQUATTING**

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<sup>108</sup> **The Society for Sect and New Religious Movement Studies, with its seats in Prague and Brno, and which also co-operates with the Czech police,** monitors and watches apparent sects and so-called new religious movements on a long-term basis

<sup>109</sup> By its Resolution No. 385 dated 10 April 2002 the Government approved „The National Action Plan for Combating Terrorism“ which is available on the Ministry of the Interior’s web-sites – the section of documents. For more details and adopted measures see “The Report on Public Order and Internal Security Situation in the Czech Republic in 2001 (in comparison with 2000), p. 99 – 100.

The words squat or squatter come from American English where they originally meant settlers settling at a territory owned by nobody. Within the last decades these words have been used for little groups made up predominantly of young people occupying deserted flats or houses.

### **The Beginning of Squatting**

Squatting came into existence in the course of the development of punk culture whose first wave hit Great Britain in the 1970s. The basis for punk culture was a new music style known as punk-rock. It was a simple, hard, rhythmic music with expressive, striking texts expressing feelings and speaking against an unjust social system, calling for anarchy and promoting anarchist views. A core of emerging communities were supporters of the punk movement who occupied various derelict premises. Within time the “crews” of squats changed where punk admirers were joined by supporters of other alternative life styles.

A squat is established by the illegal occupation of desolated or unused real estate by a group of mainly young people. Then, in contrast with homeless people, the squatters open negotiations with the owner of the premises over what will happen next. Squatters usually offer to the owner that they will build up a independent cultural unit which is able to maintain the premises in a condition that will not look so shabby or in disrepair.

### **Situation in Europe**

The countries of Western Europe take an ad hoc liberal attitude towards squatting. They do their best to meet the wishes of groups of people who show a serious interest in building a special cultural centre in occupied premises and to legalise their residence there. An example of such a liberal attitude is in the Netherlands where a number of legal squats exist. In Germany there used to be a lot of squats in the 1980s in the West Berlin quarter Kreuzberg. After the fall of the Berlin Wall squats were moved do the outskirts of the city. Danish Christiania ranks among the most famous areas with developed squatting. As for the countries of Eastern Europe there is a quite strong squatting scene in Poland and Hungary.

### **The Czech Republic**

Prague has become a centre of squatting. Since 1990 seven squats in total have been established in Prague. The first squat was “Golden Ship” house in Naprstkova Street in the Old Town. It had existed for four years before the police moved out thirty five illegal tenants in May 1994. The same destiny came for squatters in the Smichov colony Budanka in spring 1992, who, almost a year after the time they began to occupy houses there, had to leave the squat. Some of those squatters immediately moved to a Holesovice house in the street of Podplukovník Sochor, when in the meantime the third squat in the sequence came into existence in the city. Squatters lived illegally in the house generally called Sochorka until 1997 when they managed to enter into an agreement with the Municipal Council in Prague 7. Squatters drew up a project for a Centre of Free Education and started to prepare various lectures from such scientific branches as sociology, politology, or ecology. The town hall therefore vacated for them the ground floor of a house in the street Za papirnou where they could continue their activities. The squatters are obliged to pay a rent there which is, however, only symbolic – one Czech koruna for a square meter per year. This squat has become the only legal squat in the Czech Republic so far. In September 1993 a group of young people occupied the Brevnov Landronka farmhouse and submitted to the City Council a project for an “Autonomous Social and Cultural Centre”. This squat existed for seven years until 10 October 2000 when the police vacated it. In 1997 a new squat was established in Liben in

Zenklova Street which was vacated in 1998. The last known squat is the currently occupied villa Milada situated in Troja. Squatters moved in there in May 1998.

### **Who Are Squatters.**

From the very beginning of squatting in Germany and in Great Britain groups of young people tried in this manner to solve their social problems with accommodation, and at the same time they started to create unusual sub-cultures. Squatting, as a movement, is perceived by squatters themselves in very different ways. Some consider it a life philosophy, for others it is a temporary solution to their current life situation, while the rest see in it a kind of vanguard of social revolution. However, what is common to them all is a criticism of the current social system. They consider this to be unethical, immoral, and based on profit and exploitation. The motto of squatting is – occupy and live. By its nature squatting is near to the anarcho-autonomous scene and the majority of squatters incline to radical left-wing ideas.

### **Legislative Framework**

While implementing squatting, i.e. the illegal occupation of unused premises, squatters breach the law and commit the crime of trespass of (a house, flat or non-residential premises under Section 249a of the Criminal Code (i.e. unauthorised violation of another's rights)

### **GRAFFITI**

Graffiti has become an everyday part of our life. It is a new type of culture and art, and vandalism as well.

### **Rise and Development of Graffiti**

Graffiti came into existence at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s in the USA. Its founder is a Greek immigrant known by his nick-name Taki, who lived on 183<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan. He worked as an errand-boy and where he drove he signed himself as "TAKI 183". According to personal observers he was not very talented but by his "tag" i.e. by his simplified signature, he was in the history of graffiti its founder. Since then drawing on walls gradually gained a higher numbers of supporters. Simple signatures were gradually replaced by elaborated colourful surfaces. Graffiti reached its climax in New York with start of hip-hop and black rappers in the middle of the 1980s.

The development of graffiti started discussion on whether graffiti is or is not an art. Graffiti step by step got to galleries and exhibition halls. In the middle of the 1980s this phenomenon was perceived in France as a special form of pop art. Unintelligible signs, colourful surfaces and "tags" on the walls of city buildings attracted the attention of sociologists, psychologists as well as art theoreticians.

Since the beginning of the 1990s the United States have had its own strategy aimed at combating graffiti. For example in Chicago the removal of graffiti costs four and a half million dollars. About one hundred "crews" constantly drive across the city and systematically cover the drawings. The main intention is to make sprayers' life a misery. This method seems to be successful since no graffiti remains in the streets of Chicago for a long time.

### **Who Are Sprayers**

By their appearance they do not differ from others. The only sign of a sprayer is a rucksack on their back which hides cans (with spray), various kinds of spray jets and working

clothes. It is their inconspicuousness that enables them to get near railway stations, the underground system and so on, without looking suspicious. They work mostly at night, in groups at a time best suitable for them and use exactly prepared routes. While other are watching one is drawing. During the action they communicate on mobile phones. This is the reason why sprayers are very rarely caught red-handed. If this happens by any chance it is difficult to prove whose are the sprays and who is the author of a drawing. Then an expert must estimate the damage and accordingly it is decided whether it is only disturbance, or damage to another's property. After a night's action the author returns to "locus delicti" and takes a picture of his work.

Sprayers are organised in smaller groups called "crews" and in the Czech Republic there are estimated to be several thousand "crews". Many of them understand graffiti as a life attitude expressing resistance to the consumer society. Some take it as a manifestation of art inseparable from a modern large city. Others think of it as an adventure. The notion of damage caused to other people's property does not cross their minds. Mostly there are sprayers who with one spray in their pocket draw everywhere including over the pictures of their colleagues. The activities of several thousand sprayers cause to the Czech Republic high damages amounting to CZK several hundred million 'a year.

### **The Czech Republic**

This phenomenon came to the Czech Republic in the 1990s. Of course it was Prague which became the centre of the sprayers' creativity. Today sprayers themselves call Prague "the most decorated" city in Europe. In January 2001 the City Council of the capital city of Prague launched a project called "Prague in the Heart of Sprayers?". The objective of this project was to open a society-wide discussion with sprayers about what it is possible to tolerate and what cannot be tolerated, and to try to find a boundary between art and vandalism. As part of this project, an exhibition "Graffiti in the City" was held in the Town Gallery established in the Roman basement of the building belonging to the Town Hall on the Square of Franz Kafka. There were about 130 photographs taken by amateur artists in some European cities including Prague from 1993 until 2001. There were also works by sprayers from the workshop held by the City Council in the Roxy Club on 23 March 2001. Another activity within the aforementioned project was a very "stormy" public discussion held in the City Library of Prague on 10 April 2001. The topic was "sprayers in the city and the protection of property".

Since 1 July 2000 the capital city of Prague has marked off several places where sprayers can draw with impunity. These "legal" surfaces were even before marked off in a number of towns in the Czech Republic. However, as was shown later, this in no event solved the problem with spray painting.

### **Legislative Framework**

Sprayers may be committing a crime under Section 257 (damaging another's property) of the Criminal Code. By amendment to the Criminal Code, from 1 July 2001 a new subsection – 257a was included besides Sec. 257. This subsection regulates damage to another's property by painting, spraying or writing on it with paint or any other substance. This crime is punished by a sentence from 2 to 8 years of imprisonment for an offender who by his/her conduct causes extensive damage.

Separate, however, are very serious manifestations of spray painting falling under Sec. 198a of the Criminal Code on the incitement of national or racial hatred or the violation of human rights and freedoms, and under Sec. 260, 261, 261a – the support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. It is necessary to add that this is

a different kind of an offence, it is not possible in any event to identify such offenders with “classical” sprayers.

## **FAN VIOLENCE**

### **History of Football “Hooliganism”**

English rowdies started with disorderly conduct in stadiums in the late 1970s, a wave of violence they passed into Europe. The public peace is also broken by temperamental girls in South America, Africa, and Asia. Raging spectators cause tremendous damage to property and football history is marked by the blood of many people injured, and also the dead. A breakthrough in the struggle against football hooliganism was the Brussels tragedy in 1985 during the finale of the Master’s Cup, when directly in the auditorium of Heysel Stadium 42 spectators died either crushed by the ruins of a destroyed wall, or were trampled down. The attack was led by the fans of the English Liverpool team, while the victims were predominantly fans of Juventus Torino.

### **The Czech Republic**

In our republic “hooligans” aroused public notice more seriously in 1985 when disreputable fans of the Prague club, Sparta, coming back by fast train from Banska Bystrica made a mess in a train and caused damage of more than half a million Czech crowns. Within the next several years, more or less organised groups of “fans” came into existence with the largest football clubs, such as Sparta Prague, Banik Ostrava, and Slovan Bratislava. After the Czechoslovakia split and the Czech league was established, the situation in the football stadiums temporarily calmed down. Whereas in the past the fans of one club used be a quite heterogeneous group who met ad hoc during matches of their team, nowadays there are actual, yet not very numerous, gangs of well organised “fans”, one club having even several such gangs (e.g. Red Pirates Sparta, Sparta Prague, Slavia Hooligans). A great extent of organisation can also be proved also by the conclusion of so-called coalition agreements between individual gangs, even at the international level, which then travel to express their support during so-called “risky matches”. They have their trains, signs and web-sites, on which they present and evaluate individual “trips” to matches, conclude truce or declare hostility.

### **Who Is a Hooligan?**

A football hooligan has mostly short cut hair, trainers, jeans, and sports sweatshirts (most often Umbro). It is important not to attract attention.

As for their social background they are very often unemployed people from broken problematic families, persons who have an assertion problem. In individual fractions there is also quite a high number of wealthy leaders, from rich families, for whom hooliganism is a hobby.

Alcohol plays an important role in such violence as it breaks inhibitions, and hooligans under the influence of alcohol rush to skirmishes while taking less notice of attacks on themselves. One of the most important objectives of football hooligans is to show off. If they are not permitted to enter stadiums they will then start up fights or confrontations in the streets.

### **Psychological reasons for Football Hooliganism**

Increasing unemployment and loss of life perspective arising from a suppressed feeling of dissatisfaction with life can be a cause of aggression in football stadiums. This is supported by the atmosphere of a crowd defeating its team against “the enemy”, alcohol and a strong fixation to victory. The most risky age, from a criminal point of view, is of 20 years. On the other hand, younger teenagers more easily breach social norms and tend to violent conduct. In the stadiums today the number of spectators from this tier of youth is growing, while the number of older spectators is declining. According to some psychologists hooligans can be divided into two groups – those who have a psychological need for such conduct, and those who like fighting.

### **Bodies Dealing with This Issue**

A Co-ordination Commission concerning Fan Violence Issues and Unsuitable Behaviour During Sports Matches, Particularly Football Matches, was established in the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic in 1996 on the basis of Government Resolution No. 27 through which the Czech Republic joined the European Convention on Fan Violence and Unsuitable Behaviour During Sports Matches, Particularly Football Matches. Members of the Commission are representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Czech police, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; and invited co-operating entities are representatives of the Czech-Moravian Football Union and the Czech Union of Ice Hockey. One of the assignments of the Commission is to draw up annually a National Report on Fan Violence and Unsuitable Behaviour Mainly during Football Matches. This Report is submitted at the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the European Convention.

In 1995 an Agreement on Mutual Co-operation While Ensuring Public Order, the Protection of People and Property Security During Football Matches was concluded between the Czech police and the Czech-Moravian Football Union. This Agreement was concluded for a year, however every year before the League starts, the Police President and the Chairman of the Czech-Moravian Football Union sign its extension.

### **Legislative Framework**

During football matches “hooligans” very often commit crimes under Sections 202 (rowdyism<sup>257</sup> (damaging another’s property), 225 (brawling), 221 (injury to health) and last but not least, when getting into conflicts with the police, also Section 155 (an assault on public officials) of the Criminal Code. Through the amendment to Act No.405/2000 Coll., it is possible to classify their conduct under Section 198a (incitement of national and racial hatred or violating another person’s rights and freedoms). **The absolute majority of these “hooligans” are right-wing extremists, and there are skinheads among them. So, more frequently we can hear at the stadiums fascist greetings (*Sieg Heil*), which means that such persons commit a crime under Section 260 (support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms).**

**Within fan violence, manifestation of extremist conduct can be seen.** The reasons why policemen involved in extremism from the level of a District to the Czech Police Presidium deal also with this phenomenon are described above. Of course they work in co-ordination with uniform police forces.

## 4. Crimes Having an Extremist Context<sup>110</sup>

### 4.1 Background

Mostly right-wing extremist supporters of the skinhead movement, left-wing extremist “anarcho-autonomists”<sup>111</sup>, and further, also citizens of the majority of society who do not have any links to any extremist movements and who do not profess any extremist ideology in the so-called “situational conflict”, committed crimes with an extremist context”.<sup>112</sup>

As in previous years, the occurrence of crimes with an extremist context remained the same in terms of its percentage share of total crime – not very high. Such low percentage share of this type of crime, however, does not decrease the fact that it is very serious, since not all offences of this kind were reported to the Czech police and latent crime often arising from stereotypes of society represent a certain danger. **No terrorist crimes were committed in connection with extremism. No information confirming offences committed by sects was proven either.** The relevant state bodies regarding state security need to protect the current constitutional establishment and also pay attention to the activities of organisations which profess an active return to the totalitarianism of before 1989 or to its more contemporary authoritative modification. The supporters of such movements do not commit any criminal offences, however there are serious concerns relating to their subversive activities resulting from, apart from other things, the introduction of social tension in certain regions.

Out of the total number of 358,577 ascertained crimes committed in the Czech Republic in 2001, extremist or racial crimes accounted for **0.1 %**, i.e. 452 crimes (in 2000 - 0.09 %, 364 crimes); of which **89.8 %** crimes were solved (in 2001 -89.9 %, -0.1 %).<sup>113</sup>

In 2001, in comparison with 2000 there was an increase of **24.2 %**, **+88 crimes** (in 2000 increase of 15.2 %, + 48 crimes).<sup>114</sup> This rise was accompanied by a higher number of

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<sup>110</sup> This Chapter was processed with the help of information provided by the Criminal Police Headquarters of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic. The information provided contained an assessment of the situation regarding the extremist scene and the information of regional experts dealing with extremist issues. **As a synonym of a term “crime motivated by racial, national or other social hate”, the Report uses a term “crime with an extremist context” (extremist crime/criminality).** This Chapter deals with crimes ascertained and does not take into account latent crime of this kind.

<sup>111</sup> **The summary term for anarchist, Trotskyists, and autonomous attitudes.** Those attitudes possess some common features, however there are some differences which can end up in deep dispute. (A degree of organisation structures and centralisation, relations to politics, willingness to co-operate with extremist organisations of a different type, etc.).

<sup>112</sup> A study – “Inter-ethnic conflicts as a consequence of racial hatred”, elaborated by Marketa Stechova PhD. deals with this issue. IKSP Prague 2001

<sup>113</sup> See **ANNEX No. 1: The Development in a Share (%) of Crimes with an Extremist Context in Total Crime in 1996 - 2001. Diagram.**

<sup>114</sup> According to official police statistics extremist crime developed in the Czech Republic, from 1996 to 2000, as follows: **in 1996:** 131 crimes motivated by extremism were recorded, 152 persons were prosecuted; **in 1997:** 159 crimes motivated by extremism were recorded, 222 persons were prosecuted. *Trend:* **increase** in crime by 22.1 % (+28) and the number of prosecuted persons by 50.6 % (+77); **in 1998:** 133 crimes motivated by extremism were recorded, 184 persons were prosecuted. *Trend:* **decrease** in crime by 16.3 % (-26) and the number of prosecuted persons by 19.6 % (-45); **in 1999:** 316 crimes motivated by extremism were recorded, 434 persons were prosecuted. *Trend:* **increase** in crime by 137.6 % (+183) the number of prosecuted persons by 135.9 % (+250); **in 2000:** 364 crimes motivated by extremism were recorded, 449 persons were prosecuted. *Trend:* **increase** in crime by 15.2 % (+48) and in the number of prosecuted persons by 3.5 % (+15). This

offences that were cleared up (+24.2 %, +79) and a lower detection rate (-0.1 %). The number of prosecuted offenders rose by 12.7 % (+57). The above-mentioned increase, among other things, reflects a higher quality of work by the police in the field of extremism, including operative work. At the same time it reflects, as in the previous year, the higher number of complaints or reports of crimes with an extremist context lodged by members of the Roma community.

**506 persons** were prosecuted for committing the above-mentioned offences, mainly for the support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms<sup>115</sup> – 269 persons (52.8 %); for the defamation of a nation, race or a conviction – 86 persons (17 %); and for violence against a group of people or an individual – 59 persons (11 %). **19 persons (3.8 %) were prosecuted for intentional injury to health.** In 2001 contrary to 2000, there was one **attempt to commit murder** and one **murder was committed**. In both cases the victims were ethnic Roma. **Two cases of the crimes monitored having been committed by policemen** were registered as well.

Penal proceedings against the offenders of crimes with an extremist context which were closed predominantly by bringing charges against them - 298 offenders (61.8 %); 122 offenders are being still investigated (25.3 %); and pursuant to Sec. 159(2) and Sec. 159(3) 51 cases were left in abeyance (10.6 %). Pursuant to Sec. 172(1)(d), eight cases were discontinued (1.7 %) and one case was, pursuant to Sec. 173(1) (a,b,c), suspended (0.2 %). Two foreigner offenders (0.4%) were, pursuant to Section 173(1)(d), delivered to their home countries to be prosecuted there.<sup>116</sup>

In 2001, if the age of offenders is taken into account, offenders of 21-29 years old prevailed, as in 2000 (166 persons, +27), followed by offenders of the 18-20 years category (107 persons, +13), and 15-17 years (74 persons, +2). In the category of under 15 years of age, there were 34 offenders (+1).<sup>117</sup> In terms of education attained, persons having a basic education and an apprentice certificate continued to prevail among the offenders (215, +46), followed by persons having a basic education and no qualification (115, -5), then followed by persons having a secondary education, however at a considerable distance (32).<sup>118</sup>

Offences included attacks motivated socially, ethnically, or racially. Offences through which offenders wanted to reach a total change of the social or political order were not reported in 2001.

In 2001 according to police estimations the numbers of skinhead movement supporters as well as the numbers from the anarcho-autonomous scene increased, which corresponds with the year 2000. The total number of these two extremist groups is about 13,000 persons (in 2000 it was about 10,000 persons), which is a total growth of about 22 %.<sup>119</sup> This increase was recorded in the capital city of Prague (+790) followed by North Moravia (+1160), South

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increase was accompanied by a higher number of crimes solved (+19,8 %, +54 crimes) and a higher detection rate (+3,5%) **Of the total number of criminal offences ascertained in the Czech Republic, crimes having an extremist nature accounted for 0.03 % (1996), 0.04 % (1997), 0.03 % (1998), 0.07 % (1999), 0.09 % (2000).**

<sup>115</sup> See **ANNEX No. 2a: Development in the Share (%) of Offenders Committing Crimes with an Extremist Context in the Total Number of Offenders in the Years 1996 - 2001. Diagram.**

<sup>116</sup> See **ANNEX No. 2b: Offenders of Crimes with an Extremist Context Divided According to the Termination of the Penal Proceedings in the Czech Republic and in the Regions of the Czech Republic in 2001. Diagram**

<sup>117</sup> See **ANNEX No. 2c: Offenders of Crimes with an Extremist Context Divided According to Age Categories in the Czech Republic and in the Regions of the Czech Republic in 2001. Table and Diagram.**

<sup>118</sup> See **ANNEX No. 2d: Offenders of Crimes with an Extremist Context Divided According to their Education in the Czech Republic and in the Regions of the Czech Republic in 2001. Table and Diagram.**

<sup>119</sup> See **ANNEX No. 3a: The Estimation of the Numbers of Skinhead and Anarcho-Autonomist Supporters in Individual Regions in the Czech Republic by 31 December 2001 (compared to 2000). Table.**

Moravia (+230), West Bohemia (+120) and East Bohemia (+10). An estimated number of those persons decreased by 5.6 % (-50 persons) in South Bohemia while in Central Bohemia and West Bohemia it has remained as at the level of 2000. Of the republic-wide average, the increase in the number of right-wing extremist supporters of the skinhead movement (hereinafter “skinhead movement supporters”) accounted for approximately 23% (+1140). This percentage growth was equal to the growth reported in 2000. After a sharp increase in the number of anarcho-autonomists seen in 2000 (62%, + 1,630), in 2001 only a slightly increasing trend was registered - about 19 % (+820). **The largest number of people leaning towards these extremist ideologies was observed in the capital city of Prague (3,140; 2,350 in 2000; 1,490 in 1999), followed by North Moravia (2,610; 14,50 in 2000; 1,210 in 1999), South Moravia (2,600; 2,370 in 2000; 1,800 in 1999) and North Bohemia (1,600; 1,600 in 2000; 1,000 in 1999).**

In comparison with 2000, the number of these persons mostly increased in North Moravia (+80%). The increase in the numbers of skinhead supporters accounted for 71% (+850), and anarcho-autonomists 124% (+310).<sup>120</sup>

The above-stated figures represent approximate estimations of police experts, describing the approximate numbers of persons both from the right-wing and left-wing extremist spectrum who commit such offences or are potential offenders. However, it needs to be stressed that **the stated numbers represent skinhead and anarcho-autonomist support and cannot in any event be interchanged with the numbers of members of the hard core of these extremist movements** ready to conduct violent acts as per their programme.<sup>121</sup> Their number is lower.

## **4.2 The Most Important Cases from the Point of View of the Police of the Czech Republic<sup>122</sup>**

Unlike in 1999 and 2000, in 2001 a racially motivated murder was attempted **in Ostrava (NM) and a racially motivated murder was committed in Svitavy (EB)**. In both cases the offenders were supporters of the skinhead movement and the victims were Roma. In the first case three citizens of Roma nationality were attacked by a group of offenders using knives and gas pistols and one of the victims suffered a serious, life

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<sup>120</sup> In 2001 compared to 2000 the estimated numbers of skinhead movement supporters increased in Prague (by about 52 %), in West Bohemia (by about 13 %), and in South Moravia (by about 4 %), whereas on the other hand the numbers decreased in South Bohemia (- 10 %) and East Bohemia ( - 13 %). The numbers of anarcho-autonomists mostly rose in East Bohemia (by about 63 %), West Bohemia (by 20 %), South Moravia (by about 15 %) and in Prague (by about 18 %).

<sup>121</sup> See **ANNEX No. 3b: The Total Number of Skinhead and Anarcho-Autonomists Movement Supporters Compared to the Total Number of Extremist Crime Offenders in the Czech Republic in 1998 - 2001**

<sup>122</sup> See **ANNEX No. 4: The Most Important Cases from the Point of View of the Police of the Czech Republic Committed in the Czech Republic in 2001**. This overview is followed up by an analysis of all filed cases during the period starting **1 January 2001 and ending 31 December 2001** where there was suspicion that a crime or misdemeanour committed had an extremist context, including cases motivated by racial or national hatred or committed by extremist group supporters regardless of the final criminal law classification. See **ANNEX No. 12**. Regarding the fact that the list of all cases which occurred is especially valuable because it demonstrates the frequency, the cogency and as well the structure of offences having extremist nature, regardless of their final criminal law classification. This list is presented every year on the web-sites of the Ministry of the Interior in the section called “Documents”, sub-section “Extremism” under the name “Overview of cases comprising suspicion of criminal acts or offences having an extremist context, including cases motivated by racial or national intolerance, or committed by supporters of extremist groups without regard to their final criminal classification – the complete text.”

endangering injury. In the second case an offender used a knife to cause serious injuries to his victim who died.

**Two other cases of crimes monitored having been committed by policemen** were perceived in a similar way. One policeman was charged with committing the crime of support and propagation of a movement suppressing human rights and freedoms under the provisions of Sec. 261 of the Criminal Code, and also of rowdyism (hooliganism) under the provisions of Sec. 202 (1) of the Criminal Code, committed along with another offender under the provisions of Sec. 9 (2) of the Criminal Code. In the case of an attack against a member of the Roma community by the members of the Czech police, five policemen were notified of a charge under Sec. 9 (2) and Sec. 158 (1) (a) of the Criminal Code – abuse of power by a public official. Moreover, four of these were charged with the crime of violence against an individual or a group of people under Sec. 9 (2) and Sec.196 (2) of the Criminal Code. Currently, the District State Prosecutor in Cheb has brought charges against the offenders for the crimes under Sec. 158 (1) (a), 235(1), (2) (b,c,f) of the Criminal Code.

According to the Police, mainly crimes committed by skinhead movement supporters resulting in either injuries to the health of the attacked, mostly Roma but some foreigners as well, or verbal attacks accompanied by threats, were among the most serious cases. Some cases of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms were considered to be very serious as well.

Of the total number of the most serious cases (32), the Czech police suspended seven cases, two cases were terminated under Sec. 172(1)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and two cases are being investigated. **Of the aforementioned 32 most serious cases the Czech police concluded 20 by filing a motion for bringing charges and ten of them were concluded by pronouncing a court sentence;** one case was classified as a misdemeanour.

### **4.3 Typical Features of Crimes with an Extremist Context**

In 2001, changes in the tactics of right-wing extremist skinhead movement supporters seen in 2000 were confirmed. Skinhead movement supporters are strictly secretive about their meetings, parties, and concerts and mask them as, for example, birthday parties and so on. Individual people do not declare their support for this movement so publicly as in previous years, some even outwardly reject their membership in the movement. Views of racial and national hatred are not usually presented as openly as they were before. Older supporters try not to show aggression publicly, they use existing right-wing extremist political parties of civic association within which they try to assert themselves. In 2001 more than in the preceding year their effort to acquire support for their ambitions and their programme among the general public was brought to the fore. Younger skinhead supporters represent the opposite pole. The larger part shows an inclination towards aggression and therefore these supporters move to football or ice hockey stadiums where they purposefully seek out verbal and physical skirmishes. Examples of conflicts called by skinheads occurred in the past as well but were mostly unplanned actions of individuals.

## 4.4 Extremist Crimes in Individual Regions<sup>123</sup>

In 2001, according to official criminal statistics, 452 crimes with an extremist context were registered.<sup>124</sup> **The majority of such crimes were committed in North Moravia (128), the capital city of Prague (79), in Central Bohemia (65) and North Bohemia (61),** followed by South Moravia (50), East Bohemia (32), West Bohemia (20) and South Bohemia (16).<sup>125</sup> Within the Czech Republic the share in crimes of an extremist nature of Prague, North Moravia, Central Bohemia, and North Bohemia reached about 74 %<sup>126</sup>. **An increase in such crimes was recorded in North Moravia, Central Bohemia, North Bohemia, and South Moravia.** By contrast, the largest decline in crimes monitored was reported in East Bohemia and West Bohemia. The lowest number of such crimes accompanied by a further decline (-5) was registered, as in 2000, in South Bohemia.

**In 2001 the increase in crimes with an extremist context did not stop in North Moravia, and compared to the year 2000 it accounted for 52% (55.5 % in 2000; 28.6% in 1999).**<sup>127</sup> The highest occurrence of extremist crimes was registered in the regional city of Ostrava and in the Districts of Karvina, Opava, Novy Jicin, Olomouc and Prerov. Within this increase, there was, in contrast to the previous year, a negative shift in the nature of crimes committed. The above-mentioned **homicidal attempt of racial nature** was committed in Ostrava on 30 June 2001 and was classified pursuant to provisions of. Sec. 219 (1), (2) (g) of the Criminal Code. This crime can be classified as **especially dangerous**. During house searches in the homes of the skinhead movement supporters charged with the homicidal attempt, a large amount of material with racial and fascist context was found, including contacts, postal as well as Internet addresses, for a range of people and movements of a similar nature operating in the Czech Republic and abroad, which helped the police to map and detect structures of right-wing extremism in the region. On the basis of an analysis of all 128 crimes,<sup>128</sup> it is possible to state that, according to the Police, some of those crimes manifested certain features showing that they were organised, and showing partial political and nationalist intentions. These were particularly cases of repeatedly occurring so-called situational conflicts, i.e. conflicts of mutual physical, or more frequently, verbal, attacks between the members of majority and minority communities. Such conflicts were often based

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<sup>123</sup> The Czech police is organised, from a geographical point of view, into individual administrative units in accordance with Act No. 36/1960 Coll., on the Geographical Division of the State as amended. The statistical data provided is therefore related to the following regions: Central Bohemia, South Bohemia, West Bohemia, North Bohemia, North Bohemia, East Bohemia, South Moravia, North Moravia and an independent territorial unit – the capital city of Prague. The proportion of individual regions (new division into self-governed regions) in crimes with an extremist context in the Czech Republic in 2001 is illustrated in Annexes 7b a 7c.

<sup>124</sup> See **ANNEX No. 5** The Number of Crimes with an Extremist Context and Their Share in Republic-wide Crime of This Kind in 2001. Table

<sup>125</sup> See **ANNEX No 6 a - c: Racially Motivated Crimes or Other Crimes with an Extremist Context Detected in the Czech Republic in 2001. Detected Offenders of Racially Motivated Crimes or Other Crimes with an Extremist Context in 2001** (according to official criminal statistics). Maps

<sup>126</sup> See **ANNEX No. 7a: Proportion of Individual Regions in Crimes with an Extremist Context in the Czech Republic in 2001. Pie diagram.** Situation in crime in 2001 in terms of self-governed regions in the Czech Republic see **ANNEX No. 7b: Proportion of Individual Newly Established Regions (new division into self-governed regions) in Crimes with an Extremist Context in the Czech Republic in 2001. Diagram.** and **ANNEX No. 7c: Crime with an Extremist Context in the Regions (new division into self-governed regions) of the Czech Republic in 2001. Table and diagram**

<sup>127</sup> Higher attention is paid to North Moravia with respect to risks related to the development and activities of the extremist scene in the region.

<sup>128</sup> However, according to the findings of police experts involved in extremist issues, 138 crimes (+10 comparing to the official criminal statistics) were committed in the territory of North Moravia.

on the immediate “emotional” state of the offenders. In the opinion of the police, the complicated economic situations of some of these inhabitants also had a role in these conflicts, or as well such conflicts were caused by long-lasting negative relations between the majority and minority.

The highest numbers of cases (56, +37) concerned the crime of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Sec. 260, 261 of the Cr. Code, followed by the defamation of a nation, race or conviction under Sec. 198 of the Cr. Code (27, -9), violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 of the Cr. Code (20, +6), injury to health under Sec. 221 and 222 of the Cr. Code (11, +1), and incitement of national and racial hatred under Sec. 198a (7, +2). 181 persons were prosecuted for committing one of the above-mentioned crimes (which is +65). According to police experts from the North Moravian Region, the largest percentage of offenders of extremist criminal offences was among persons of over 20 years of age (41 %), and persons between 15 and 17 years of age (32 %); 20 % of offenders belonged to the age group between 18 and 20 years, while 7 % of offenders were persons of under 15 years of age. Persons of under 15 years of age committed mainly verbal and written attacks (written or graphical with an extremist context or using Nazi greeting “Seig Heil” at schools or in public). Offenders falling in the age category of between 15 and 18 years committed mainly verbal and rarely physical attacks, writing with an extremist context, or distribution of prohibited materials. Their criminal activity was “transferred to the streets” (participation in skinhead rallies, demonstrations, etc.) and they rarely committed targeted attacks with the aim of making themselves more visible and showing off. However, organised crimes or crimes of a group nature as well as attacks by individuals were typical for offenders between 18 and 20 years of age. These crimes were typified by conspiring between offenders and concealment, they were targeted crimes and demonstrated emotional conduct. Such offenders usually and even repeatedly committed verbal and violent assaults, distributed forbidden materials and disseminated extremist opinions. These were especially active members of a movement, extremist civic associations or their supporters. In the age category over 20 years similar criminal offences were committed (violent attacks along with verbal attacks) and support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, particularly through publication and circulation of periodicals.

In 2001 a considerable increase in crimes motivated by extremism continued in **Central Bohemia** (+109,6 %, + 34 cases). These were mainly criminal offences such as injury to health and various disturbances and crimes committed by verbal or non-verbal public activity related especially to the following crimes: support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Sec. 260, 261 of the Cr. Code, or the defamation of a nation, race or conviction. Crimes under to Sec. 260, Sec. 261, Sec. 196, and Sec. 198 of the Criminal Code prevailed. 53 persons were prosecuted in relation to such criminal activities. Mainly members of the Roma community were victims. In three cases it was foreigners who were attacked, and in one case there was a conflict between skinhead movement supporters and a supporter of the anarchist movement. In 2001 as well as in 2000, there were also cases where the victim was a member of the majority society. The types of offenders of crimes with an extremist context did not considerably change in comparison with those of the previous year.<sup>129</sup>

After an increase in criminal activities in the **North Bohemian Region** in 2000 (by 46.6 %, +14), another growth was registered in 2001 (by 38.6 % +17). These were mainly

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<sup>129</sup> The offenders were not members or supporters of extremist movements in all cases. A “common” conflict very often ended up as a racial attack, especially a verbal attack. Verbal manifestations of these offenders, common citizens, especially reflected prejudices and stereotypical attitudes latently rooted in Czech society.

crimes committed under Section 260 and 261 (37), and Sec. 198 (12). In five cases the grounds for the crime of violence against a group of people or an individual were fulfilled (Sec. 196), and in one case it was a crime of injury to health (Sections 221, 222). 66 persons were prosecuted. No considerable changes could be seen in the manner by which crimes were committed. These were mainly verbal and physical attacks against Roma inhabitants by skinheads, propagation of fascism (e.g. using Nazi greeting Sieg Heil in public places) or the propagation of fascism at concerts of skinhead movement supporters; rarely Roma verbally or physically attacked members of the majority society. Verbal attacks occurred mainly during coincidental meetings, usually under the influence of alcohol. The police bodies assessed an attack against the gay club "Marek" in Liberec by skinhead movement supporters as a serious case. In 2001 the activities of right-wing extremists dominated while the activities of left-wing extremists declined. Extremist actions such as demonstrations and concerts of skinhead movement supporters were held with a high degree of organisation and were attended by foreign "guests" from Germany and Slovakia. The development of crimes with a racial or other extremist context was influenced by the specific features of this region, being the higher proportion of Roma population and foreigners among other inhabitants of the region, and at the same time, in the opinion of the Czech police, the occurrence and number of racially motivated crimes was affected by social problems, the high unemployment rate, the low education of the population and lack of opportunity to find a job.

Attention should be paid to **South Moravia** where, after a long-term trend of a marked decline in crimes monitored, an increase 31.6 % (+12) in such crimes occurred in 2001.<sup>130</sup> As for the composition of criminal offences, verbal as well as physical assaults against both Roma inhabitants and foreigners were reported.<sup>131</sup> 53 persons were prosecuted for committing 50 criminal offences. In 2001, as in previous years, the town of Brno retained first position within the region in terms of the total number of crimes, as well in terms of accumulation of individuals from various extremist groups. There were both right-wing extremist supporters and left-wing extremist supporters (demonstrations, concerts, various protests, etc). During the course of 2001, a new generation of skinhead movement supporters showing higher outward aggression, which could represent a risk factor in the development of extremist crimes in South Moravia, began to appear more in the limelight.

In **East Bohemia**, after an increase in crimes by 107 % during 2000, the year 2001 showed a decrease of 42 % (-23). Criminal offences under Sections 260 and 261 of the Cr. Code (20) and under Sec. 198 of the Cr. Code (9) prevailed. In addition, violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 of the Cr. Code (3) and **racially motivated murder** were committed.<sup>132</sup> 38 offenders were prosecuted. Particular victims of verbal and physical attacks were Roma inhabitants. The Trutnov District displayed the highest number of crimes of this type (12). 2001 saw an increase in the activities and skirmishes of groups of young people in large city agglomerations (such as Hradec Kralove and Pardubice), very negatively perceived by the Czech police. Conflicts with an extremist context also occurred in connection with sports events (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> football league, ice-hockey extra-league) and music band performances.

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<sup>130</sup> Gradually, since 1996, there has been a decline in crimes monitored. However, according to the Czech police, this was caused by the fact that offenders concealed a racial or extremist context and penal bodies were not in all cases able to prove such motivation.

<sup>131</sup> In six cases foreigners from Sudan, Jamaica, Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe, Georgia and Angola were attacked.

<sup>132</sup> In relation to the accusation of skinhead V.P committing racially motivated murder and concerns from the revenge of Roma in 2001, there were several attempts by skinhead movement members to establish in Svitavy an organised association. Therefore they set up contacts with skinhead groups in the nearest environs.

In **Western Bohemia** the decline in crimes with an extremist context seen in 2000 also continued in 2001 (23 %, -9). In 2001, crimes monitored decreased by 33 % (-10).

In general it can be said that, in the capital city of Prague and all other regions, extremist crimes falling under Sections 260 and 261 of the Criminal Code (the support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms) prevailed. In North Bohemia, Central Bohemia, and North Moravia crimes under Sec. 198 (defamation of a nation, race or conviction) dominated. The proportion of crimes under Sections 196 and 197a) (violence against a group of citizens or an individual) in the total volume of crimes monitored was in the range from 2.5 to 30.7 % in individual regions. The highest number of such crimes occurred in Central Bohemia and in North Moravia, where, as in 2000, most (11) of those crimes resulting in injury to health under Sections 221, 222 were committed as well.

**In 2000, the most affected areas or districts in individual regions were as follows:**<sup>133</sup>

- **North Moravia:** Ostrava (37), Karvina (22), Opava (12), Novy Jicin (11), Olomouc (11), Prerov (10), Bruntal (9);
- **the capital city of Prague:** Prague 2 (18), Prague 1 (12), Prague 7 (17), Prague 4 (8), Prague 3 (6), Prague 8 (5);
- **Central Bohemia:** Melnik (12), Kladno (11), Pribram (9), Beroun (6), Nymburk (6) Benesov(5), Prague-vychod (5);
- **North Bohemia:** Most (12), Louny (11), Teplice (10), Ceska Lipa (7), Decin (5), Jablonec n/Nisou (5);
- **South Bohemia:** Brno-mesto (15), Hodonin (11);
- **East Bohemia:** Trutnov (12), Pardubice (8), Nachod (6);
- **West Bohemia:** Plzen - mesto (6), Rokycany (4);
- **South Bohemia:** Tabor (7), Ceské Budejovice (5).

Of the aforementioned, the most affected areas or districts in 2000 are, from a long-term view, repeatedly (since 1996) affected by crimes with an extremist context: the districts of **Karvina, Ostrava, Bruntal (NM), Kladno (CB) Trutnov, Pardubice (EB), Most, Ceska Lipa (NB), Brno – mesto, (SM), Pilsen (WB), Ceské Budejovice (SB).**<sup>134</sup> Measures which could positively affect this unwanted situation should be directed at these areas, at the level of all state bodies.

## **Crimes Committed During Concerts of Skinhead Bands and Intervention by the Czech Police**

After the German organisation Blood & Honour was placed under a ban, skinhead movement members in 2001 tried to take over its “monopoly” in holding concerts and thus fill in an existing “vacuum”.<sup>135</sup> As a consequence, the Czech Republic became a target country mainly for right-wing extremists not only from Germany but also from other countries. The highest number of concerts with international visitors was held in Central

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<sup>133</sup> The evaluation is compiled from official criminal statistics. There are only districts/areas where 5 or more crimes were committed.

<sup>134</sup> See **ANNEX No. 8: Districts/Areas Affected on a Long-term Basis by Crimes with an Extremist Context (1 January 1996 – 31 December 2001). Map.** They are mainly locations or districts affected by crimes having nature for a long period of time and they must be perceived as risky in terms of this kind of crimes.

<sup>135</sup> See **ANNEX No. 9: Concerts of Right-Wing Extremist Skinhead Bands in Czech Republic in 2001. Map.**

Bohemia (5). Smaller concerts were organised in West Bohemia (1), North Bohemia (2), South Moravia (6) and North Moravia (1).<sup>136</sup> After the first concerts of neo-Nazi skinhead bands with strong international participation (concerts in Zlonin, Kolesovice and Senohraby<sup>137</sup>), the Czech police were strongly criticised for not preventing the escalation of such negative activities in the Czech Republic. Consequently the Czech police increased their strike force, which was to be seen in the next intransigent interventions.

- The police intervened in the concert of neo-Nazi bands held in Prague 9 – Letnany (3 August 2001) because there was a suspicion that crimes were being committed inside the premises. Four offenders were accused of crimes of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, and another offender was accused after the receipt of an expert opinion. Two of these people were taken into custody.<sup>138</sup>
- The police intervened in the concert in Zizelice, the Louny District, (on 18 August 2001) after finding that Nazism was being promoted inside the premises (cultural house) by the shouting of "Sieg Heil!". 16 people were taken to the police station. The conduct of 6 people was classified as a misdemeanour under Sec. 47(1) (a) of Act No. 200/1990 Coll. 10 people, among whom two were German citizens, were prosecuted under Sec. 260 (1) of the Cr. Code for the offence of supports and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms.
- Police intervened during a music performance in Pilsen at the nightclub called "Chicago club" (25 August 2001) because of a song celebrating Rudolf Hess and the crying out loud of his name which was heard outside the club.<sup>139</sup> Four people were accused of committing crimes falling under the provisions of Sections 260 (1) and 261 of the Criminal Code. Among the accused there were members of the Slovak music

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<sup>136</sup> The following concerts of right-wing extremist skinhead bands were held in the Czech Republic: on **20 January 2001, Zlonin, Prague – vychod District (CB)**, visited by about 440 people from the Czech Republic and abroad (Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia); on **12 February 2001, Brno (SM)**, the concert of the Beowulf visited by about 60 people; on **17 February 2001, Kolesovice, the Rakovnik District (CB)** – participation of about 800 people from the Czech Republic and abroad (Germany, Slovakia, Poland and Great Britain); on **2 March 2001, Javornik, the Hodonin District (SM)**, the concert of Beowulf; on **24 February 2001, Stankovice, the Louny District (NB)**, visited by about 100 people, 18 of whom were foreigners, mainly from Germany; on **7 April 2001, Senohraby, Prague – vychod District (CB)**, visited by about 500 people from the Czech Republic and abroad (Germany, Slovakia and Great Britain); on **14 April 2001, Strenice, the Mlada Boleslav District (CB)**, visited by about 180 people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia; on **28 July 2001, Zabreh na Morave (NM)**, visited by about 100 people (a part of the beginning ceremony was the declaration of a financial collection for V.P. accused of the racially motivated murder) **this event was cut off by the Czech police**; on **3 August .2001, Prague 9 – Letnany**, visited by about 40 people, **this event was terminated by the intervention of the Czech police**; on **18 August 2001, Zizelice, the Louny District (NB)**, visited by about 200 people from the Czech Republic and Germany, **this event was terminated by the intervention of the Czech police**; on **24 August 2001, Boritov, the Blansko District (SM)**, the concert of Beowulf visited by about 55 people; on **25 August 2001, Pilsen – Skvrnany (WB)**, visited by about 150 people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, **this event was terminated by the intervention of the Czech police**; on **8 September 2001, Zlin (SM)**, a private birthday party with the concert of Beowulf Brno and the Revolta Zlin; on **12 December 2001, Brno (SM)**, the concert of Beowulf; on **15 December 2001, Piskova Lhota - Zamosti , the Mlada Boleslav District (CB)**, visited by about 160 people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia; on **23 December 2001, Brno (SM)**, the concert of Beowulf visited by about 100 people.

<sup>137</sup> The concert in Senohraby organised by people close to the National Resistance. Organisation under the name "Aryan Pride" was established for the preparation of this only one concert.

<sup>138</sup> During the search in the premises the Czech police found with some members of the concert replicas of rings of German SS troops and German punishment forces, CDs with musical recordings containing racial and Nazi texts, etc.

<sup>139</sup> The three following skinhead bands performed during the concert: Ragnarock and Hlas krve (the Voice of Blood) from the Czech Republic, and Ancestors from Slovakia.

band “Ancestors”, who played and sang the song praising R. Hess. During this police action the CDs of skinhead recordings were seized.

After 25 August 2001 only six concerts of the band called Beowulf were held in South Moravia and one concert in Central Bohemia, which, when compared to previous performances, had only a limited significance. Intervention on the side of the Czech police in monitoring these performances was not needed since neither the public peace was disturbed nor were any crimes committed. No concerts of right-wing extremist supporters of the skinhead movement were held after the aforementioned date in any of the regions.<sup>140</sup>

## **Detection and Prosecution of Crimes Committed Through Printed Materials, Symbols and Emblems**

The Czech police have continuously dealt with this kind of crime since 1998. As in the preceding years they devoted particular attention to this kind of criminal offence in 2001, consisting in the Czech Republic mainly of:

- publishing and distributing press materials;
- publishing, distributing and selling audio MCs and CDs;
- producing, spreading and selling badges, cloth badges, stickers and other “relics” from the era of the Third Empire;
- promoting and demonstrating public sympathy towards movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms on clothes and clothing accessories; and
- using symbols and emblems while decorating bodies with tattoo, utilising various signs containing phrases and slogans of the Third Empire and other xenophobic graffiti.

Investigation of such criminal offences requires expert opinion from the fields of political science, history, sociology, and other branches. This is also reflected in the proving of crimes, which has become more demanding and more extensive, and therefore has negatively impacted the promptness of punishment of offenders committing such crimes. In the case of media forms of crimes by the means of press materials the trend of concealment of racial motives without direct, open attacks continued.

In 2001, the Czech police commenced investigations relating to the publication of right-wing extremist periodicals such as *Akce*, *Nachodsky necas* and *Vyzva* (see translation above). On the basis of the required expert opinion, it was found that through the publication and distribution of periodicals *Akce* No. 1, *Vyzva* No. 6 and *Nachodsky necas* No. 6 a criminal offence falling under Section 198 (a), 260 and 261a of the Cr. Code had been committed. In the course of the investigations several people involved in the publication and distribution of these periodicals were detected.<sup>141</sup> In addition, there was an investigation into the audio recording “The Truth about a Lie”, promoting racism and xenophobia among right-wing extremists, which was concluded on 11 March 2002 by charging Ing. R.S. with the crime under Sec. 260 (2) of the Cr. Code. It is marginally possible to mention “an ode”

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<sup>140</sup> A concert of four neo-Nazi bands was supposed to take place in North Bohemia (Vintirov, the Chomutov District) on 24 November 2001. The planned number of audience was about 150 people. Due to the fact the Czech police revealed the event during its preparation the performance was cancelled.

<sup>141</sup> Police files were submitted to the then Bureau of Investigation in Prague 2, Rakovnik, Chrudim, Nachod, and Karlovy Vary. Prosecution of one person was discontinued on 31 January 2002 pursuant to Sec. 172 (1) (c) of the Cr. Code and prosecution of three people was suspended pursuant to Sections 158a (1), 159a (1) of the Cr. Code. (February - March 2002). Two people suspected of committing crimes falling under Sections 260 and 261a of the Criminal Code are being investigated .

celebrating V.P., an offender of the racially motivated murder of Roma O.A. in Svitavy. Its author, using the nickname “Dr. Selfoi” was detected and the case is being investigated.

With regards to left-wing extremism two more cases were investigated. They were classified as crimes of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. They concerned an article “The Truth about the Courageous Acts of Anti-Communist Dissidents from the 1950s”, published in *Nove Bruntalsko Weekly*<sup>142</sup>, and articles in a “samizdat” journal *Pochoden*, calling for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and nationalisation at the very cost of a struggle.<sup>143</sup>

Long-term operative work by the Czech police on the case of four offenders who organised extremist activity of the former music band BULDOK, led to their being charged with the crime of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under the provisions of Sec. 260 (1) (2) (a) (b) of the Cr. Code, and the crime of unauthorised business activity under the provision of Sec. 118 (1) of the Cr. Code (25 April 2001). These offenders, using P.O. Boxes, sent off and sold to interested people from the whole of the Czech Republic audio recordings (MCs and CDs), printed song-books, T-shirts, badges and other materials which, according to expert opinion, clearly support and promote fascism, nazism and xenophobia. On 2 August 2001 charges were filed with the District Court in Zdar nad Sazavou.<sup>144</sup>

Another serious case of this kind of crime was detected by the Czech police in June 2001. During house searches and searches of cars they found thousands of replicas of approximately of 70 kinds of badges of the Third Empire, various types of cloth badges and stickers (Jew stars, swastikas, German eagles, etc.), uniforms, caps, and other kinds of clothes with Nazi symbols. So far this was the most extensive case of production and distribution of these goods in the Czech Republic. With respect to this case J.H. and J.V. were apprehended and were charged with the crime of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Sec. 260 (1) of the Cr. Code<sup>145</sup>. In June, another offender, this time from Central Bohemia, was charged with the crime falling under Sec. 260 (1) of the Cr. Code, which he committed by offering and selling, from the beginning of 2001 in various places in the Czech Republic, mainly at the exchange in Bustehrad (the Kladno District), contemporary replicas of badges related to the Nazi German army, and weapons used by SS troops. On 19 December 2001 a proposal for bringing charges was filed.

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<sup>142</sup> This article describes the case of the then murdered members of the State Security Police, the Forces of National Security and officials of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. In this context the article described “*a spy case of one of the very capable spies – M. Horakova*”.

<sup>143</sup> D.P. printed in one of the copies of *Pochoden* photographs of foremost Czech politicians who were marked as criminal traitors.

<sup>144</sup> The Czech police from West Bohemia also dealt with activities of a music band. They investigated activities carried out by the pro-skinhead oriented music band HLAS KRVE (THE VOICE OF BLOOD) because its members were suspected of committing criminal offences under Sec. 260 (1) (2) (a) of the Cr. Code. The band members were to commit such crimes by recording CD the name of which was “Fight in Bohemia” and its texts openly promoted ideas of racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia. They also were to promote, distribute and sell this CD among skinhead movement supporters at their performances. This case was suspended on 28 March 2002 by resolution adopted under Sec. 159a (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

<sup>145</sup> A similar case happened in 2000 (1 July – 30 December), however it was not so significant. It was investigated in South Bohemia. M. K. offered in Jindrichuv Hradec at the antique shop for sale and sold badges and contemporary replicas of badges marking various Nazi political, half-military or military organisations from the period of Third Empire from the years 1933 – 1945. All these articles had relation to the German National Socialist Movement and SS troops. On 13 March 2001 M.K. was accused of a crime pursuant to Sec. 260 (1), an incitement was brought against him on 28 March 2001 and on **4 April 2001 the District State Prosecutor’s Office conditionally suspended criminal prosecution in accordance with Sec. 307 (1) of the Code of Cr. Procedure.**

In 2001 the sale of CDs with neo-Nazi themes at market places in border regions, particularly near the border with Germany and Austria, remained a problem. The recordings of songs related to the Nazi movement of 1920–1945 were, *inter alia*, disseminated by this way including German military songs, songs of SS and SA troops, and songs of Hitlerjugend.<sup>146</sup> These CDs were sold mainly by Vietnamese dealers who allegedly did not know the content of the texts. Purchasers were especially from Germany and Austria. **Recordings of Landser (*Ganz Deutschland hört Landser and Zieguenenfahrt*) were the most aggressive neo-Nazi, racial, anti-Semitic and xenophobic texts** distributed in the Czech Republic, predominantly only at Vietnamese market places. Having regard to the fact that the texts were difficult to understand, it may be assumed that their consumers were exclusively visitors from Germany and the above-mentioned market place became a link in a production and distribution chain a part of which was situated in the Czech Republic.

During the course of 2001, 17 inspections were carried out at market places and at the points of sale of pirate recordings on CDs and MCs.<sup>147</sup> In total 18,987 CDs were confiscated, however only 23 of them contained neo-Nazi topics. Similar inspections continue in 2002. On 12 February 2002 during the inspection at the market place in Cesky Jiretin and Petrovice, 2,228 CDs were confiscated, with 12 CDs being suspicious that these media contained neo-Nazi themes, therefore they were sent to be assessed by relevant experts.

Extremists more often use the Internet, not only for their mutual communication but mainly for spreading their ideology. This kind of crime is quite dangerous because it enables the publication of a large volume of extremist literature and is able to influence the younger generation. This is a difficult issue, since to combat this kind of crime is very difficult and it has not yet been unambiguously solved in European states. A special unit established with the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic deals with Internet crime.<sup>148</sup>

## **Distribution of Leaflets and Stickers „*The Sudeten Was and Will be German*”**

The first occurrence of leaflets and stickers „*The Sudeten Was and Will Be German*” was reported from Prague and Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) during the first months of the year 2002. Other cases were found in Opava and Vsetin (NM), Mikulov (SM) and Chomutov (NB).<sup>149</sup> The text on the back-side of the leaflet repeats the requirements of some Sudeten-German Provincial Retinues (SDL) which currently operate mainly in Germany and partially also in Austria. According to the opinions provided by experts the text corresponds to the rhetoric used in the 1950s and to the propaganda of the most aggressive Sudeten-German groups. It openly proclaims national, religious, and partially also racial hatred, however, it is also an attack against the basis and the sovereignty of the state and it promotes Nazism. The

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<sup>146</sup> For example CD Das Dritte Reich und Hitlerjugend (The Third Empire and Hitler’s Youth).

<sup>147</sup> Such inspections were carried out in Hrensko, Moldava, Petrovice, Brandov, Dubi, Dolni Pustevna, Varnsdorf, Cesky Jiretin, Cinovec, Rozany, and Redhost.

<sup>148</sup> Criminal offences committed via the Internet are a Europe-wide problem, and thus a positive change in combating extremism in the Internet could be brought by a single procedure taken by European countries. In April 2002 an initiative which could contribute to the solution of this issue was established within the Council of Europe See “Draft of the First Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the criminalisation of acts of racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems and its Explanatory Report”. European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)

<sup>149</sup> An emblem used both on the stickers and the leaflets is a badge of “Sudeten-German Landsmaschaft”. It is a duly registered and permitted symbol in Germany, the usage of which is usually common only within the above-mentioned organisation, mainly in Bavaria. The slogan “*The Sudeten Was and Will Be German*” ranks among the slogans used by “Sudeten-German Landsmaschaft” in the period between 1958 and 1978.

leaflet casts doubt over the state establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic after 1918 and using historical lies it continues, to state that “*the Munich Agreement was and still has been an act in compliance with international law, and as such it is incontestable and cannot be annulated*”. The text describes the German occupation in 1939 – 1945 as an establishment “*providing the citizens of the Protectorate social benefits they could not even dream about during the First Republic*”, according to the text it was a period during which conscription did not exist, the period when “*you could culturally develop without any limitations*”, etc.<sup>150</sup>

In relation to the distribution of the aforementioned leaflets, penal proceedings were commenced in accordance with provisions of Sec. 260 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, against Z.H. (\*1977) for the crime of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms that he had committed on 26 February 2002 when he, in a not exactly ascertained restaurant in Prague 1, Wenceslav Square had given to F.J. (\*1980) an envelope containing about 30 stickers and leaflets with a heading “**THE SUDETEN Was and Will Be GERMAN**”. This case filed under ref. number CTS:OR-1-575-SKPV-2002 **was closed on 10 June 2002 by a motion to bring charges.**

*Currently police experts are investigating the manner of distribution of these leaflets, location of a printing machine and other circumstances concerning the dissemination of these leaflets in the Czech Republic.*

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<sup>150</sup>See **ANNEX No. 9a: The leaflet “THE SUDETEN WAS AND WILL BE GERMAN”**. A copy of the leaflet and the text. Wording of the text corresponds to German Czech (incorrect capital letters of substantives), however the text was probably proofread by a Czech native speaker. This issue is also described in the book *Rozumet dejinam (To Understand History) – the development of Czech-German relations in our country from 1848 to 1948*. Published by Galerie s r.o. for the Ministry of the Interior. Prague 2002.

**Table No. 1****The total number of crimes recorded in the Czech Republic in 1996 – 2001**

(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic - ESKK)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Crimes recorded</b>	<b>Crimes solved</b>	<b>Persons prosecuted</b>
<b>1996</b>	131	58	152
<b>1997</b>	159	132	229
<b>1998</b>	133	100	184
<b>1999</b>	316	273	434
<b>2000</b>	364	327	449
<b>2001</b>	452	406	506
	<b>1,555</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,954</b>

Table No. 1 provides data on the number of crimes registered in the Czech Republic in 1996 – 2001, crimes solved and persons prosecuted.

**Table No. 2**

**An overview of extremist crimes involving attacks on a nation, nationality or race or on their members, and crimes committed by incitement of national or racial hatred – total numbers in 1996 - 2001 (according to the types of crimes)**

(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic - ESKK)

<b>Sec.</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Sec.196 (2)</b>	85	76	85	80	41	61
<b>Sec. 198</b>	62	46	69	85	111	106
<b>Sec.198 (1) (a)</b>	11	11	15	18	107	105
<b>Sec.219(2) (g)</b>	0	2	3	1	0	1
<b>Sec.221 (2) (b)</b>	20	19	23	7	11	8
<b>Sec.222 (2) (b)</b>	4	10	10	4	5	7
<b>Sec.235 (2) (f)</b>	0	5	0	3	1	3
<b>Sec. 236</b>	5	1	2	0	1	1
<b>Sec. 238a</b>	28	30	28	0	1	1
<b>Sec.257 (2) (b)</b>	82	51	82	38	11	6
<b>Sec. 259</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sec. 260</b>	33	20	32	70	53	88
<b>Sec. 261</b>	50	62	104	107	95	174

Table No. 2 gives a summary of the total number of individual crimes with an extremist context within the last five years. It shows that, while in 1996 – 1997 crimes of violence against a group of people or an individual prevailed, in 1998 - 2001 mainly crimes falling under the support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms prevailed.

## 5. The Extremist Scene in the Central European Geopolitical Area<sup>151</sup>

Currently, maximum attention is paid to the issues of increasing nationalism and the phenomenon of right-wing extremism within the whole world. The skinhead movement represents the most important base of right-wing extremism in the Central European region. As in the West European region, there are also here political parties perceived as extremist which use this movement as their “striking force”. Various historical aspects are frequently projected in the rhetoric and demands of these parties. In the case of Germany and Austria these are reminiscences of the Nazi era, revisionism, casting doubt upon the holocaust, and discussion about the so-called “national principle” (Völkisches Prinzip), according to which the German nation is not defined by the territory of Germany but by “the language and blood” and so forth. The Hungarian MIEP uses “Great-Hungarian slogans” consisting of, for example, requirements of revision of the current Hungarian borders. The Slovak National Party is known for its activities aimed at rehabilitating the Slovak fascist state headed by J. Tiso. In Poland, historically conditioned anti-Semitism is quite a significant element of racism including a traditional practice of marking as Jews people of non-Jewish origin. In Central Europe as well as in Western Europe there are efforts to deny the existence of holocaust, openly or secretly, the people attempting to do so being so-called “scientists”.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>151</sup> This chapter was written on the basis of materials provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office for Foreign Relations and Information. At the same time, it uses materials published by the U.S. Department of State: “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – 2001“, released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, March 4, 2002. With regard to these issues, the Minister of the Interior (The Office for Foreign Information) and the Director of the Security Intelligence Service in co-operation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs **meet, on an ongoing basis, the assignment contained in item 4 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 720/1999 (“to monitor, on an ongoing basis, the situation and trends in extremism development in the Czech Republic and in the world with an emphasis on the neighbouring states of the Czech Republic”). It is a permanent assignment.**

<sup>152</sup> See <http://www.adl.org./holocaust/denier>. To deny the holocaust various strategies are used. Experts dealing with this issue have identified the fact that topics used to cast doubts on the holocaust lean on five principal statements: 1. The holocaust never happened since there was no special “Plan” for the extinction of Jews; 2. There were no gas chambers used for the mass murders in Auswitz and in other concentration camps; 3. Scientists dealing with the holocaust rely on the testimonies of those who survived but objective documentation proving Nazi genocide is not available; 4. In the period between 1941 - 1945 not as many Jewish lives were lost as is apparent; and 5. The Nuremberg Processes were a “historical farce”, held for the Jews’ own benefit. According to some opinion, casting doubt upon the holocaust has become at present the most significant toll of anti-Semitism.

Within the movement aimed at denying the holocaust **David Irving** (\*1938 - ), a British who has become one of the propagators of this movement, mainly in the United States, much worshipped and with a reputation of being a chronicler of history of the Second World War, deserves special attention. He is both the most popular lecturer and the leading authority within this movement. As a result of his denial of the holocaust and the speeches he made, he had problems with state bodies in, for example, Germany and Canada. He led a legal quarrel with American historian Deborah Lipstadt whom he accused of aggravating him by publishing her book about holocaust denial and the propagators of this theory (Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust*, Publishing House Paseka, Prague 2001) In 2000 a British court pronounced a judgement which confirmed D. Irving as a falsifier of history and a Nazi well-wisher. In summer 2001, the British Court of Appeal confirmed the judgement of the first instance court stating that D. Irving actually denied the holocaust. However, he also enjoyed publicity as an author in the Central European region (e.g. in Poland, the Czech Republic) where his books were translated and published without a relevant explanatory commentary. The following books were published in the Czech Republic: Goebbels. The Lord of Ideas of the Third Empire. Brno 1998; The Destruction of Dresden. Olomouc 1997; Rommel. The Fox of the Dessert. Brno 1995; Luftwaffe. Rise and Fall. Brno 1995; Bibliography of Hermann Göring. Brno 1996; Hitler’s War and a War Path of the Years 1933 - 1945. Brno 1998

Despite the mutual relatedness of the ideas of the above-mentioned entities (anti-system attitudes, a negative approach towards the EU, NATO and globalisation, as well as their involvement in supranational organisations such as the International Third Position, or Euronat), it is possible according to available information to identify in their contacts certain discrepancies. These are caused, for example, by the focus of Slovak and Romanian nationalists against the Hungarian minority in Slovakia and Romania, a Hungarian requirement for revision of the Trianon Treaty, or anti-German Semitism pertinent to a part of Polish right-wing extremists. On the other hand these discrepancies do not prevent mutual personal, commercial, and other contact between such entities.

Particularly racist members of supporters of the skinhead movement are offenders of aggressive verbal and physical assaults against especially persons of a different skin colour or different ethnic origin are. In Slovakia and Hungary the victims of their attacks are members of the Roma community which is in both states very large, followed by dark skinned foreigners, while in Germany and Austria mainly asylum seekers, immigrants and foreigners are attacked. The skinhead movement in Poland is based on long-rooted prejudice against Jews and Germans; therefore this movement is openly anti-Semitic. Furthermore, it is aimed against immigrants, people of a different skin colour (Arabs, Asians) and against everything that is “of foreign origin”. Occasional attacks against German tourists can be seen.

In individual countries the following authorities are involved in the issue of extremism: the Federal Bureau of Protection of the Constitution - BfV (Germany), the Service of the State Police of the Ministry of the Interior – Gruppe II/C Staatspolizeilicher Dienst, Bundesministerium für Inneres (Austria), the National Security Bureau – Nemzetbiztonsági Hivatal – NBH (Hungary), the Department of Violent Crimes of the Bureau of Criminal and Financial Police of the Presidium of the Police Forces (Slovakia) and the Bureau of Protection of the Constitution – Urząd ochrony państwa (Poland). Only German and Austrian Reports on the Development of Extremism are publicly available. In Hungary and Poland this issue falls exclusively under the responsibility of the intelligence services and the documents are classified. In Slovakia the first annual report on extremism (2002) is not public either and it is available only for the police forces. Only its shorter version is available for the general public.

Among measures that individual governments have adopted to combat all manifestations of extremism, the political concept of the Federal German Government deserves special attention. It connects quick penal punishment with a long-term preventative strategy. To weaken an extremist scene, the German Government drew up “The Programme for Leaving” for right-wing extremists. This has been in operation since April 2001 and is aimed mainly at leading personalities and those who are not firmly fixed on the scene. A contact telephone line through which advisory services are provided by specially trained staff of the Federal Bureau for Protection of the Constitution has been used by 730 callers, 160 being potential “leavers” and 66 of whom have been under the intensive care of the Bureau in question. The German party considers the fact that the aforementioned programme brings uncertainty into the right-wing extremist scene, to an indication of its successful.

## 5.1 Right-wing Extremist Spectrum

At the end of 2001, as in 2000, there were 144 right-wing extremist parties, clubs, organisations, and associations in **Germany**. Compared to 2000 the members decreased in total by approximately 2.4% (i.e. from 50,900 to 49,700). Of this total number of right-wing

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(1<sup>st</sup> publ.), 2000 (2<sup>nd</sup> publ.). Apart from D. Irving e.g., Ernst Zundel, Robert Faurisson, Jürgen Graf, Mark Weber, Bradley Smith, and others are involved in the movement aimed at denying the holocaust.

extremists only about 10,400 persons are aggressively oriented (9,700 in 2000). They are organised in 5 sub-cultures and in 49 markedly neo-Nazi groups. **The number of active neo-Nazis increased** (from 2,200 persons in 2000 to 2,800 persons in 2001) and they are concentrated into militant groups which are solidly organised.

In the case of right-wing extremist political parties the total number of members was around 33,000 persons (36,500 persons in 2000). According to the information of the Federal Bureau for Constitution Protection (BfV), the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), the German People's Union (Deutsche Volksunion - DVU) and the Republicans (Die Republikaner - REP) are striving to get a leading position inside the right-wing extremist scene. In spite of the danger of being banned, the NPD has remained the most important right-wing extremist party.<sup>153</sup> Neo-Nazis from the NPD have completed their membership base by recruiting young "warriors" among skinheads. In 2001, the NPD had about 6,800 members, which account for approximately 1,000 persons more than in 2000.<sup>154</sup> It was found that neo-Nazis in Bavaria were trying to penetrate federal activities, mainly at the academic level. Tactics to penetrate university students are promoted especially by Horst Mahler (formerly RAF), Reihold Oberlecher, Alexander von Webenau, and Juergen Schwab, officials and theoreticians of the NPD. Academic clubs "Danubia" (Munich) and "Teutonia" (Regensburg) are to become, in their opinion, alternative neo-Nazi structures in the event that activities of the NPD are banned and the party is dissolved.

According to published data, the number of offences committed by the ultra right-wing underground grew. In 2001 there was a moderate increase in criminal offences committed by right-wing extremists in Germany. These were mainly violent crimes both against individuals and against groups of nationalities including brutal physical assaults, the aim of which was not only to threaten but to kill. Furthermore, they committed arson crimes and called fights with the local left-wing Antifa Offensive.

Skinhead groups were the most visible especially in the East of Germany. Brandenburg, Pomerania, the region of Berlin, where, apart from other groups, the neo-Nazi organisation "National Revolutionaere Zelle" (NRZ – the National Revolutionary Cell) exists, were among the most important areas of militant right-wing extremism. In addition to neo-Nazis there is also the association "United Skins", and especially the provincial organisation of the NPD called Dahme Spreewald. As a matter of fact no German province was exempt from activities carried out by neo-Nazis.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> Currently there are legal proceedings against the NPD commenced in 2001 which might end by its dissolution or by a court ban on its activities. Despite all contemporary phrases used by the NPD the methods and targets of the NPD are, according to the Federal Bureau for Constitution Protection (BfV) so similar to the NSDAP that it is irrelevant to deal with contingent differences.

<sup>154</sup> In June 2001, the NPD organised a march across the city of Siegburg near Bonn, where numerous Turkish, Afghan, and Moroccan minorities live. The organisers of this event were an activist of the NPD Hans - Robert Klug and an organisation called "Freie Kameradschaft Rhein-Sieg". In October 2001, there were other neo-Nazi demonstrations and marches attended by about one thousand people. The leading personalities of the neo-Nazi rallies were Horst Mahler, Steffen Hupka (a former leader of an indicted National Front and a former provincial chairman of the NPD in Saxony-Anhalia), Christian Worch (a leader of the skinhead movement "Freie Kameradschaft") and the federal chairman of the NPD Udo Voigt.

<sup>155</sup> In **Munich** (Bavaria) investigation of an approximately twenty-member group of skinheads was closed in May 2001. This group committed an unsuccessful homicidal attack against a Greek plumber whose life was finally saved by a group of 10 or 15 Turkish workers. Six people will be on trial. According the Chief State Prosecutor this homicidal attack was unambiguously motivated by hate against foreigners. 13 members of the banned right-wing extremist organisation "Skinheads Saechsische Schweiz" (SSS) were sued in **Dresden** in October 2001. The age of the condemned who were accused of crime of disturbing public peace and coexistence, injury to health and bullying was between 18 and 25 years. The condemned are probably members of a core of the aforementioned organisation, however according to the State Prosecutor ordinary and undecided members of the SSS must be sued. This organisation was established in 1996 and had about 120 members. It openly

The Berlin police apprehended five members of the skinhead music band “Landser” who were, on the basis of their texts, charged by the federal state prosecutor’s office in Karlsruhe with neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic heckling and address calling for violence against foreigners, Jews, Sinti, Romas and persons with different political views. Moreover, they were charged with abetting serious crimes such as arson and murder.<sup>156</sup> Also in 2001, trade in neo-Nazi music production, badges and clothes in Nazi style, all of which are prohibited in Germany, continued to be investigated.

9,418 crimes, which accounted for 96% of the total of 14,725 criminal offences committed by right-wing extremists, were defined as torts in the field of propaganda, and 980, which is about 6.7%, were classified as violent. Of the stated total, 10,054 crimes were racially motivated, including 709 violent crimes of this type, and 6,336 torts fell under the category of propaganda.<sup>157</sup>

In 2001, **Austria** did not see substantial changes in extremist trends. However, more representatives of the intellectual spectrum of the national as well as international right-wing extremist scene made themselves more visible. Manifestations of right-wing extremism, especially violence motivated by xenophobia, were more frequent in the western part of Austria. Support for the Austrian extremist scene from Switzerland and Germany, in particular from Bavaria, could represent in the future an increase in aggression and agitation mainly among the right-wing extremist youth.<sup>158</sup> In other provinces, performances by skinhead bands under the pretext of celebrating birthdays were held more often. Participation by foreign guests was confirmed. This was given by good across-the-border contacts of the domestic scene. Such performances are very profitable for organisers thanks to sale of promotion materials, MCs or CDs.<sup>159</sup>

As in previous years the Austrian right-wing extremist scene was considerably influenced by abroad. Activities carried out by the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) increased. The representatives of this party opened in Austria several bank accounts. These were closed however, after having been identified by banking authorities. **The Party of New Order (Partei Neue Ordnung)**<sup>160</sup> operated in Austria. **The Working Association for**

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professed national socialism and looked to the Nazi regime in Germany. It was banned by decision of the Ministry of the Interior of Saxony at the end of 2011.

<sup>156</sup> A group known as “Landser“ had a fixed structure, used a conspiratorial method of contact, coded their messages and used confidential meetings. Its CDs were produced, apart from in Germany, in the USA and were distributed in Germany confidentially with the help of anonymous dealers. Despite these facts it was well-known and successful on the ultra right-wing scene. The average age of group members is between 26 and 35 years. Two years ago a song called “Landser” appeared on a CD of the international skinhead movement “Blood&Honour” whose activities have been prohibited in Germany since 2000.

<sup>157</sup> In terms of violent criminal offences, for example 153 cases were violent crimes against left-wing extremist and alleged left-wing extremists, and 45 violent crimes against other political adversaries.

<sup>158</sup> Approximately 600 or 700 people, who rank among the skinhead hard-core, dominate the right-wing scene in Switzerland. These people have foreign contacts mainly with Germany, Austria, Spain and Sweden. The majority of Swiss skinheads are 16 – 22 years old. Their aggression is growing, they are armed with baseball bats, axes, and Molotov cocktails and sometime they have firearms as well. In house searches in the homes of their leaders, literature, many CDs and manuals for firearms have been seized. As a fundamental value they confess “Schweizertum” (i.e. Swiss national feeling), and striking words are “country”, “Swiss culture” “Independency from foreign influences”. They consider themselves to be “a striking point in the national struggle against multicultural society” Right-wing extremism in Switzerland is concentrated predominantly in German –speaking cantons mainly in the cantons of Zurich, Aargau, Bern, Luzern, Basil, and East Switzerland.

<sup>159</sup> In relation to this across-the-border phenomenon the Federal Ministry of Austria is trying to introduce a single Europe-wide valid legal regulation which would be an effective tool in combating extremism.

<sup>160</sup> In 1998, on the basis of a notice from the Provincial Court in Eisenstadt, accompanied by a request to ban this party, the party undertook to cease those of its activities contradicting applicable legal provisions. After

**Democratic Policy “(Arbeitsgemeinschaft für demokratische Politik)** and a number of smaller right-wing extremist entities such as “Kulturwerk Österreich – Landesgruppe Kärnten”, “Kameradschaft IV” or an organisation called “Deutsche Kulturgemeinschaft/Deutsches Kulturwerk europäischen Geistes” performed their activities in Austria as well. About 30 Sudeten unions (clubs) similar to German retinues operated mainly in Vienna, Graz, Innsbruck, and Leoben. These clubs, the activities of which at first sight do not appear to have an extremist context, aim in fact to inconspicuously extend acceptance of right-wing extremism opinion.

A meeting of top representatives of the European ultra right-wing who arrived for an invitation of “Zur Zeit” (a weekly published journal), was held in Austria. For example, Filip Dewinter (Vlaams block, Belgium), Bruno Megret (Mouvement National Republicain, France),<sup>161</sup> Istvan Csurka (MIEP, Hungary), and Horst Mahler (NPD, Germany) participated in this meeting. The formal objective of this event was to hold in Vienna a discussion on the topic of “The European Right-Wing and Media”

In 2001, the skinhead movement created the largest base of right-wing extremism in **Hungary**. Two larger groups should be mentioned: Blood&Honour Hungary with their base in Budapest, and the Hungarian National Front (MNA). The number of their members is estimated to be approximately 300 – 400 people. They have links to foreign groups – skinheads from Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy, France, and sometimes Russia, come to Hungary to visit concerts and commemorative events. Participation in the concerts was of about 200 people who only rarely committed any criminal offences. However, the band members were prosecuted for “propaganda against minorities”.

In 2001, as in 2000, the parliamentary Party of Hungarian Justice and Life (MIEP), chaired by Istvan Csurka, remained the most significant right-wing extremist political party. This party strives for the revision of the Trianon Treaty, concluded after World War I. Besides this, I. Csurka requires that Hungary block accession of the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the EU unless these countries abolish the “Benes’ Decrees”.<sup>162</sup> The fact that the MIEP is an extremist party was confirmed by I. Csurka himself through his statement that “National parties in Romania and Serbia are openly anti-Hungarian, while my party defends Hungarian national interests, and if it is marked as ultra nationalist, then it is ultra nationalist.”

In 2001, the development of the skinhead movement in **Slovakia** became more dynamic; about 3,000 persons declared themselves to be the members of this movement. However, many of these acted without any restraint, although a certain part had proven contacts with foreign countries. Mainly “Blood&Honour” and “Slovakia Hammer Skins” are among the illegal skinhead organisations which actively operated in Slovakia in 2001. More than 10 journals (such as Biele víťazstvo, i.e. White Victory, Biely odpor, i.e. White Resistance, Nasa straz, i.e. Our Guard, Pravo bielych, i.e. Right of the White) were published illegally in Slovakia. With regard to the ideological structure of Slovak skinheads, nationalists

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several weeks the leaders of this party began to publish and distribute a brochure under the name “Right and Freedom”. Since the mid of 1999 the management returned to the name of “the Party of New Order”. As a consequence, a complaint against this party was lodged along with a requirement for its ban. However, this party continues, through a periodical “PNO-Nachrichten”, which is distributed, inter alia, at annual September Sudeten-German meetings in Klosterneuburg.

<sup>161</sup> Mouvement National Republicain was established by its splitting off from Le Pen’s Front National (FN) and its programme is far more radical than the programme of the Front National.

<sup>162</sup> The term “Benes’ Decrees” is originally nothing but a pejorative vulgarism introduced in spoken language in Germany by the Socialist Empire (Reich) Party (in 1952 this party was banned in response to a US suggestion) and the German Empire Party – the both were successors of the NSDAP. The correct name is: “The 1940 – 1947 Decrees of the Government and the President of the Republic”.

and national socialists mostly were represented. Besides Bratislava, the largest centres for the skinhead movement are Prievidza, Zilina, Poprad, Malacky, and Trnava.

Foreign contacts of the Slovak skinhead movement were also confirmed by organised concerts. It was especially the concert of skinhead bands in the village called Spissky Hrusov, held on 13 February 2001, which was attended by supporters from Slovakia as well as from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Germany, and Great Britain. There were in total about 300 in the audience. International participation was reported also in the case of an illegal rally of skinheads held on 28 September 2001 in Papradno (the Puchov District), with a participation of about 500 skinheads from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Sweden, France, and the USA. This rally was stopped by the Slovak Police in a striking manner. It was the first police intervention of this type in Slovakia. The organisation of neo-Nazi band concerts was modified. In 2001, a conspirative skinhead network was discovered in Slovakia. Concerts were organised in a secret manner and were held mainly under the guise of family parties. A number of Slovak skinheads have operated within private security services, which makes their illicit and conspirative activities easier. A part of the skinhead movement implemented their ideas also in the lower structures of the Slovak National Party (SNS).<sup>163</sup> Around 300 people professing permanent Nazism allegedly carried out their activities in Slovakia.<sup>164</sup> Such persons openly consider introducing so-called “white order” in the world and confess the racist and militant ideology of the Third Empire. Although they pass over in silence the fact the Slavs are not among the chosen, they are gaining stronger positions to the detriment of a nationalist wing which seeks “a vision of a white and clean Slovakia” in memory of Hlinka’s Guards and Josef Tiso. The ideology of the Slovak State (during World War II), inclusive of all conclusions arising from the ideology, is of course recognised and highly appraised by exclusive neo-Nazis. The basic feature of the ideology of these groups remained aggressive hate towards “crime bearing” Romas, Negroes, Jewish world-rule, and inferior homosexuals, as they call them. The visions of Slovak neo-Nazis are as follows:

- a shift towards armed attacks (violence, radical terrorism) which could be commenced within two or three years;
- armed groups will be selected in advance among verified members and they will use both primitive weapons and special means;
- the liquidation of hostile targets (Jews, Romas, so-called coloured foreigners, homosexuals, and mentally impaired people).

The Slovak National Party (SNP) continued to be the most significant political representative of extreme right-wing and nationalist ideas. This party continued in its activities, aimed at rehabilitating the Slovak fascist state led by President Tiso

In 2001, mainly the skinhead movement and related political parties were the most important representatives of right-wing extremism in **Poland**<sup>165</sup>. Several neo-Nazi and right-wing extremist organisations operated on the right-wing extremist scene. Skinheads having Nazi and racist opinions play an important role in neo-Nazi organisations. They

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<sup>163</sup> The extremist and racist focus of the Slovak National Party (SNS) was confirmed by the statement by a member of the board – Jan Slota - when he said (in summer 2001) that everybody in Slovakia tries to meet “gypsy” requests, who are, according to him, “several times prosecuted people and half-literate idiots”. His statements were initiated by the efforts to call parliamentary investigations in the case of seven policemen who were accused of racially motivated violence which resulted in the death of a Roma – Karol Sendrey. Furthermore, Slota said that “ the whole world speaks about terrorism while Slovaks are being terrorised in their country by a minority, even a stupid minority”.

<sup>164</sup> See Narodna obroda newspaper, September 2001.(UZSI)

<sup>165</sup> See Ladislava Tejchmanova, Problematika extremismu v zemich Visegradske ctyrky a Rakouska (The Issue of Extremism in the Countries of the Visegrad Four and in Austria”. Currently being printed.

profess to the idea of “Great Germany” and declare their willingness to subordinate to it. Typical was the promotion of Nazi publications, organisation of various meetings such as rallies, demonstrations, and concerts, and the formation of quasi-military structures. They maintained contact with their counterparts from Germany, the Czech Republic, and Great Britain. In contrast to those neo-Nazi groups, right-wing extremist organisations take hostile attitudes towards non-Slav nations, especially towards Germans, and promote the unity of all Slavs. They are characterised by aggressive anti-Semitism, rejection of the European Union and NATO, and the “defence” of a Catholic character of state. Open manifestations of right-wing extremism were seen mainly within youth organisations such as Młodzież Wszechpolska (MW = the All Poland Youth), Liga Republikańska (LR = the Republican League), and Federacja Młodych (the Federation of Youth). However, manifestations of anti-Semitism were apparent not only within the organisation Młodzież Wszechpolska, but also in the case of the famous ultra right-wing medium, the Catholic Radio Maryja. Among non-parliamentary political parties in 2001 promoting racism and anti-Semitism were, according to available information, the Polish National Community/Polish National Party (Polska Wspólnota Narodowa/ Polskie Stronnictwo Narodowe – PWN/PSN) and the Polish National Revival (Obrodzenie Narodowe Polski), connected with the skinhead movement. During the Presidential pre-election struggle, election committees of right-wing extremists of Boguslav Rybicky, the founders of the Polish National Community/Polish National Party (Polska Wspólnota Narodowa/ Polskie Stronnictwo Narodowe -PWN/PSN) and Boleslaw Tejkowsky seriously broke financial rules regulating the financing of pre-election campaigns which impose an obligation to deposit gathered funds into a bank account. They did not open any bank accounts.<sup>166</sup>

No party currently represented in the Polish Parliament (either in the Chamber of Deputies or in the Senate) can be expressly regarded as right-wing extremist or racially oriented.

## 5.2 Left-wing Extremist Spectrum

The number of left-wing extremists moderately declined in **Germany**. At the end of 2001, there were 32,900 members of ultra left-wing extremist groups (about 33,500 in 2000). Violently oriented anarchist and anarcho-autonomist groups had about 6,000 members (7,000 members in 2000), and Marxist-Leninist, Trotskyist and other evolutionary Marxist Groups associated in 2001 about 26,300 members (34,000 members in 2000). About 12,000 people, mainly well-wishers, were under the influence of left-wing extremist groups.

In June 2001, the Federal Bureau for Protection of the Constitution came to the opinion that there were extremist tendencies in the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), despite several of its representatives proclaiming their leaning towards to social-democratic values.<sup>167</sup> PDS is the only parliamentary party in Germany which intends to overcome and replace the existing system of market economy with socialism and which co-operates with the dogmatic German Communist Party (DKP). The PDS relates well to this party also because it is considered to be a successor of the former East German SED. The growing influence of the

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<sup>166</sup> See Information on results of audits of financial reports describing the financial background of the President pre-election struggle of individual political candidates (or election committees of their political groupings) disclosed on 10 May 2001 by the Polish State Election Commission (PKW).

<sup>167</sup> **The Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) as a whole is not despite certain objections, regarded as an extremist one.** In 2001 the total number of its members was about 84,000(88, 600 persons in 2000). Members of the Communist Platform (KPF) working inside the PDF are regarded to be left-wing extremists. In 2001, this platform had about 1,500 members (in 2000 there were 2,000).

PDS outside the territory of former East Germany became more apparent after elections in Schleswig-Holstein and in North Rhineland-Westphalia. Besides the PDS, various autonomous and “anti-imperialistic” organisations which could, along with the DKP, be considered to be representatives of the most ultra left-wing extremists groups in Germany, were active as well. In 2001, the club “Revolutionary 1<sup>st</sup> May”, operating in Berlin, and the “Antifascist Action Berlin”, which co-operate together, were among the most important organisations of left-wing autonomous radicals. They were able to ensure a participation of up to 2,000 people in various demonstrations. Radical anti-globalisation movements were represented by a German section of the organisation of radical anti-globalists “Attac” (Association pour le taxation des transactions financieres pour le aide au citoyen).<sup>168</sup> According to the opinion of an activist of this organisation, Barbara Unmuessig, the German section was seeking its identity. It should serve as not only a liaison for various left-wing, mostly extremist, streams from “old communists”, through militant and moderate ecologists, to neo-Bolsheviks, but should gradually become an out-of-parliament opposition.

In 2001, left-wing extremists committed 4,418 criminal offences, 1,168 of which (i.e. 24.4%) were classified as violent crimes. Of this total number of crimes, 1,895 offences were classified as extremist, and of these, 750 were violent crimes. 85 crimes of a violent nature were recorded in relation to campaigns against nuclear energy, 60 crimes were connected with anti-globalisation activities, and 11 crimes were considered to be a response to the events from 11 September 2001.

The Austrian Parliament in September 2001 issued a list of ultra left-wing and left-wing extremist organisations operating in **Austria**, and of their supporters and well-wishers.<sup>169</sup> According to the explanatory text, some listed organisations did not promote and do not promote extremism but their management is considered to be extremist for historical reasons.<sup>170</sup> On the grounds of the call of extremist organisation “Democratic Offensive” and “SOS Mitmensch” given on 15 March 2001, at least 6,000 people met on the Square of St. Stephen in Vienna for a demonstration presented as being anti-racist. During the demonstration the police allegedly saw a number of banners calling for the killing of the Carinthian Province Administrator and a former leader of the Party of Independence (FPÖ), Jörg Haider. However, the police investigations attempt to find the authors of the slogans was vain.

In **Hungary** in 2001, as in 2000, individual actions of anti-globalisation activists and ecologists continued without a great response and with a minimum of interest from the side of the mass media.

In **Slovakia**, at turn of April and May 2001, there were some rare attempts, mainly in Bratislava, to organise joint demonstrations of anti-globalisationists and representatives of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Slovakia, the aim of which was to be a criticism of the current system. These events were not accepted very positively by the general public and on the occasion of fights between demonstrators and the police on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2001 in Bratislava, citizens’ sympathies were on the side of the Police.

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<sup>168</sup> This organisation was established in November 1997 in France where it has 30,000 members.

<sup>169</sup> The list contained, *inter alia*, the Green parliamentary party and its women’s organisation. The explanatory text says that not all organisations in the list can be considered as expressly extremist, which is probably a remark referring to the Green Party of Austria. In terms of including the Green Party in the list the resulting wording of the note is perhaps a compromise which might relate to the resistance of Austrian public to nuclear energy.

<sup>170</sup> For example the Austrian Peace Council, which was, back in 1955, against the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from the country, was included among such organisations..

Anarchists and Trotskyists developed their activities on the left-wing extremist scene in **Poland**.<sup>171</sup> The activities of the anarchist movement lay mainly in organising protests and demonstrations (the participants of these calling skirmishes with the police and skinheads), in attacks against embassies of foreign countries, and in vandalism using for example “Molotov’s cocktails”. Anarchists are also the most active group among Polish supporters of anti-globalisation.

### **5.3 The Issue of Dangerous Sects and Pseudo-religious Organisations**

A study on this issue, carried out by the German Ministry of the Interior, was published in **Germany** in June 2001. This study resulted in the conclusion that, generally, all esoteric societies, groups, and organisations of today’s Germany are based on traditions taken over from similar associations which operated during the Nazi era. Their political orientations are mainly racial and anti-Semitic. A similar evaluation was reached for the German branch of the Church of Scientology. This Church allegedly proclaims its theory about the innocence of Nazi Germany which was rushed into the war as a consequence of bullying articles published in the Jewish press.

Distrustful and critical opinion of the Church of Scientology survived in **Austria**. Such sects and religious movements were not perceived as a risk in **Hungary** and **Poland**<sup>172</sup>.

**In Slovakia**, besides other organisations, the pseudo-religious society Christian Separatist Church Society (CSCS) operated, whose Slovak pastor presented, for example, the view that the ancestor of the CSCS, the Church of Arian Nations, was destroyed because of its co-operation with Jews, Free Masons, the CIA and FBI agents. “The Church of the World Creator” started to carry out activities in Slovakia in 2001. Its ideology supports religious and national hatred. One of the basic statements of this organisation is a thesis that Jews are responsible for World War II, that they rule the USA and through their rule they control the whole world. According to the dogmatics of the Church of the World Creator, Christianity is a violent religion. Supporters of this organisation consider everything that is good for whites to be of the highest value. One of the opinions which became apparent among its members after 11 September 2001 is the idea the USA are responsible for the bomb attacks in the USA, burning buildings, and murders of Afro-Americans and Jews.<sup>173</sup>

### **5.4 Modern Technology and Extremists in 2001**

In Germany, the Internet was increasingly used for the anti-Semitic propaganda of German right-wing radicals, most frequently based on pseudo-historical opinions of the so-called Turbine historical school. Doubts cast upon the existence of holocaust were more and more often published on web-sites having a radical right-wing content.

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<sup>171</sup> These groups declare their resistance against capitalism, fascism, and clericalism. As with other similar organisations in other countries their continuing topic is fight against fascism, neo-Nazism, and racism.

<sup>172</sup> The Polish Ministry of the Interior paid attention to sects in 2000 when it published extensive material called “Raport o niektórych zjawiskach związanych z działalnością sekt w Polsce”, Warszawa 2000.

<sup>173</sup> Furthermore, the Islamic Foundation, which is, according to information disclosed in Autumn 2001, involved in trade in weapons and to a certain degree has an extremist nature, operated in Slovakia along with the duly registered “Union of Muslim Students”.

Anti-Jewish views are spread especially by the Grabber Vela publishing house which experts regard to be the largest ultra right-wing publishing house in Germany. Since 1983, Germany has imposed a ban on many anti-Jewish and neo-Nazi publications published by this very publishing house. These works are currently spread via the Internet, and thus the bans applicable are effectively evaded. Internet pages of the German right-wing contained a call to listening to “Radio Islam”, inviting open terrorism.

In December 2001, the Federal Bureau for Protection of the Constitution (BfV) published findings that under the slogan of national resistance “a single organised front of people’s revolutionary extremism” had been formed in Germany.<sup>174</sup> As a matter of fact it is not only a “virtual” right-wing extremist organisation, the members of which meet each other only minimally and communicate via the Internet. The scope of the right-wing extremist part of the Internet in Germany grew in 2001 to approximately 1,000 pages, while in 1995 there were only two web sites with right-wing extremist content.<sup>175</sup>

The Internet, with all its technical advantages, has become the necessary means of communication and publication of ideologies and visions of both right-wing and left-wing extremists. For example, in Slovakia, the Church of the World Creator, with its centre, in Illinois, USA, promoting establishment of the white order and holy racial war, developed their activities almost exclusively via the Internet. The Parka Anarchist Group placed on the Internet information server of anti-globalisation movement, “Indymedia.org”, information in which it talks with regard to the perpetrators of the of terrorist attacks against the USA of 11 September 2001, referring to them as “so-called terrorists”, and at the same time accusing all American inhabitants of being responsible for the deaths of their relatives and friends for the reason that they had not resisted American foreign policy.

Utilisation of new technologies appeared also in the typography of some zines. Zines are usually directly connected with the web-sites of certain groups. These higher forms of processing are completed with traditional delivery services.

## **6. Evaluation of the Czech Republic in the International Forum in 1999 in Terms of Quality in Combating Racism and Anti-Semitism**

### **6.1 Activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively participated in a range of international actions and consistently presented relevant information concerning the Czech Republic at such international forums<sup>176</sup>. The need to inform about relevant measures adopted by the Government arose from the fact of the increasing immigration of Roma asylum seekers

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<sup>174</sup> According to the findings of the BfV, the beginnings of which go back to 1997.

<sup>175</sup> International co-operation is needed to be able to successfully fight against the use of the Internet by the right-wing extremist scene. The German government enforces single international prosecutions for abuse of the Internet by right-wing extremists, mainly on the forum of the Council of the EU and G-8 of the UN.

<sup>176</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs met in this way on an ongoing basis task No. 6 contained in the Annex to Government Resolution No. 720/1999. The Minister of Foreign Affairs together with the Minister of the Interior were responsible for meeting this task. (“To ensure at the international level negotiations that its foreign counterparts are provided with sufficient information on measures adopted by the Czech Government, the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech police to punish racially and nationally motivated crimes or other kinds of extremist offences and to eliminate all manifestations of racial discrimination”).

abroad, from issues concerning attitudes towards minority members, mainly Romas, as well as economic, social and cultural rights including the right to just treatment, from the continuing occurrence of racially motivated attacks which were perceived abroad as the consequence hatred or racism, and racial discrimination in the Czech society. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also reacted to information in mass media on the Czech Republic as a place where the extremist scene of the whole of Europe was starting to move to.

The measures related to human rights adopted by the Czech Government were presented both bilaterally and multilaterally. As a consequence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided information about, for example, measures taken by the Government to increase protection of national minorities (adoption of the Act on the Rights of National Minorities), to continue the integration of Romas into society (implementation of the Strategy of the Government Policy Towards the Roma Community Members Helping Them to Integrate into Society), to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (meeting the assignment resulting from the Government Resolution concerning Reports on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic and related Resolutions). The bilateral dimension of Czech foreign policy concerning human rights was implemented in 2001 especially on the information level – agreements and negotiations. The aforementioned information was presented both within bilateral visits of the Czech constitutional executive abroad, and via Czech embassies.<sup>177</sup>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs monitored the issues of manifestations of extremism in the Central European geopolitical area through Czech embassies and consulates.<sup>178</sup>

With regard to discussing issues related to the position of minorities, protection against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance within international organisations such as the UN, the Council of Europe, and the OSCE, or at international conferences, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consistently met the multilateral dimension of Czech foreign policy concerning human rights at all levels: contractual, informational, and negotiation levels. During 2001 Czech Foreign policy touched all the above-mentioned topics especially in relation to preparation for and organisation of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 31 August. – 8 September 2001).<sup>179</sup>

## **The International Forum on Combating Intolerance in Stockholm (31 – 30 January 2001)**

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<sup>177</sup> To ensure that foreign counterparts are sufficiently informed on measures adopted by the Government, the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech police aimed at the prosecution of racially, nationally and similarly motivated criminal offences and on the efforts aimed at eliminating all manifestations of racial discrimination the Ministry of Foreign Affairs used as one of the fundamental documents the Reports on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic presenting consensual view of the state administration on the extremist issue. This report is sent to the Czech embassies to be used or presented at an international forum. *The 2000 Report on the Issue of Extremism is currently printed. After that both Czech and English copies will be provided by the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

<sup>178</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs met basic assignment **No. 4** on an ongoing **contained in the Annex to Government Resolution No. 720/1999. The Minister of the Interior and the Czech Intelligence Service Director, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, are responsible for meeting this task. ("To monitor, on an ongoing basis, the situation and trends in extremism development in the Czech Republic and in the world with an emphasis on the neighbouring states of the Czech Republic")**.

<sup>179</sup> For the purpose of preparing this conference three meetings of the Preparatory Committee – PREPCOM – have been held, followed by two informal meetings of a Working Group and a meeting of a closed group of 21 countries ("G 21"), all of which were which were an extraordinary occasions for the Czech Republic to bring activities of foreign policy to a level of negotiation.

The principle subject of this conference, initiated by the Swedish government, was discussion about the means democratic society can use to eliminate racism, anti-Semitism and other extremist manifestations.. The conference concentrated on four basic fields within which intolerance can be confronted. They are: education and training (elimination of prejudice and racism in society and strengthening democratic values), legislation (examination of the possibility of using legislation in combating xenophobia and racism and its impact), community level (presentation of options of how to face, on this level, the establishment and political activities of extremist groups), and the media (the contribution of the Internet to the dissemination of xenophobic and racist moods). The Czech Republic presented at this forum a **Report on the Issues of Racism, Xenophobia, and Anti-Semitism in the Czech Republic.**<sup>180</sup>

## **The Council of Europe**

For the purpose of monitoring the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with regard to non-discrimination, with an emphasis placed on the fight against intolerance and racism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs drew up an informative document called “**Non-discrimination – the Emphasis on Combating Intolerance and Racism**”. The Ministry concentrated its attention, as well as on the national composition of Czech Society, also on legal and administrative measures aimed at combating racism, general principles of protection against discrimination, and instruments which are in the scope of powers of the Ministry of the Interior.<sup>181</sup>

## **The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

The OSCE in the spring of 2001 organised in Prague the Economic Forum of the OSCE. With regard to the sensitivity of minority policy and manifestations of racial intolerance within the Czech Republic, the participants received the aforementioned document “Non-discrimination – the Emphasis on Combating Intolerance and Racism”. To provide a more extensive view of Czech problems the Ministry of Foreign Affairs drew background and information materials concerning the following issues: the position of Roma in general; the institutional assurance of the solution of Roma issues on a national level; a legal framework of minority protection; individual, most sensitive areas of Roma issues; the strategic approach of the Government towards the solution of Roma issues on a national level; and the key projects and contributions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in dealing with solution of Roma issues.

## **The United Nations (UN)**

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<sup>180</sup> The Report was created by the Prime Minister’s Office in co-operation with MFA for the purpose of this forum. The document provided the participants with information on the situation in the Czech Republic. The coexistence of the Czech majority society and Roma minority was reported as a specific problem. As a proven solution of the problem, training focused on human rights for policemen, investigators, state prosecutors and judges was emphasised. Reports on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic regularly submitted to the Government and then to the Czech Parliament were mentioned as a well-trying means of combating extremism.

<sup>181</sup> The MFA drew up this document on the basis of materials gathered by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of the Interior. In relation to instruments under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, this document pays attention to, for example, activities carried out by the Committee for Crime Prevention which are implemented within the National Plan of Crime prevention and Its Individual Sections approved by Government Resolutions No. 720/1999 and No. 684/2000. It also emphasises permanent assignments contained in the Resolutions.

Following the discussion about the Third and Fourth Periodical Reports of the Czech Republic on meeting the Czech Republic's commitments arising from the UN International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which was held on 7 and 8 August 2000, and the adoption of the conclusions of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) the Government adopted Resolution No. 198, dated 26 February 2001, by which the Government took note of the conclusions adopted by the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and required the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to submit a proposal for ratification of the Annex to Article 8 (6) of the CERD adopted on 15 January 1992 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the CERD. In compliance with this, the Government submitted its **“Proposal to Adopt Article 18 (6) and New Article 8 (7) of the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination”**. The Government, by its Resolution No. 25, dated 9 January 2002, approved the above-mentioned Proposal.<sup>182</sup> The Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament approved this Proposal by its Resolution No. 2295 dated 3 May 2002 and the Senate reached agreement on 30 May 2002.

In 2001, a Proclamation in accordance with Article 14 of the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination was published in the Collection of Laws and in the Collection of International Treaties and Agreements. This Proclamation recognises the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to be competent to receive and discuss complaints filed by individuals or groups of persons under Czech jurisdiction that such individuals or groups had become victims of a denial of any of the rights contained in the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination.<sup>183</sup>

Within the UN the Czech Republic continued its initiative concerning exclusively Roma issues, namely the preparation of a document, “Human and Legal Problems and the Protection of Romas”.<sup>184</sup> With respect to this initiative the Czech Republic presented its opinion regarding the international dimension of the document which would allow a comparison of individual measures adopted to overcome the problems of coexistence. The Czech Republic also contributed to the content of the document.

## **The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban 31 August – 8 September 2001)<sup>185</sup>**

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<sup>182</sup>The adopted change was determined to regulate funding of the Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) established on the basis of Article 8 of the CERD, with the aim of checking how commitments arising from the Convention are met. Direct funding through contractual parties should be changed to indirect funding through the UN budget created by member state fees. This change, besides strengthening the independence of the Committee, is also aimed at unifying its funding with the manner of funding of other UN contracting bodies set up to protect human rights. The change will come into force after it is accepted by 2/3 of the states, contracting parties to the CERD. So far it has been accepted by only 31 contracting parties (of them 8 EU Member States) out of the total number of 157 contracting parties.

<sup>183</sup> Proclamation of the Czech Republic according to Article 14 (1) of the CERD was deposited at the general Secretary of the UN on 11 October 2000 and its text contains the document CERD/C/60/Rev. 4, page. 47.

<sup>184</sup> This document is being drawn up by Mr. Sik Yuen, an expert of the Sub-commission for Support and Protection of Human Rights. The study should have been submitted at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of this Sub-commission in 2001. However, due to the situation in preparing this document the expert requested delaying the date of submission until the year 2002.

<sup>185</sup> In compliance with Government Resolution No. 237 dated 18 July 2001, a delegation headed by the First Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Kavan, participated in the conference. There were delegations from almost all states of the world and several hundreds governmental and non-governmental, international, national, and regional organisations.

The objectives of the conference were mainly to evaluate progress in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, along with the identification of obstacles preventing this progress, and an assessment of options in applying current standards and in making the implementation of existing instruments for struggling against these phenomena more effectively, and also increasing knowledge about the threats of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Further, it dealt also with, for example, the assessment of political, historical and other factors leading to manifestations of these phenomena, and last but not least, formulating actual recommendations for the purpose of accepting progressive measures at regional, national, and international levels aimed at combating such phenomena.

The Czech Delegation at the conference followed up its active position taken during the course of the preparatory process. Its members participated in the activities of the main committee of the conference, in the activities of working groups relating to the draft final documents, in informal consultations dealing with historical injustice, issues of the Near East, and a list of victims; it also took part in co-ordinating meetings of associated countries with the EU Three. The Czech delegation put an emphasis, in the majority of cases successfully, on adopting a provision regarding **education** (the education of civil servants focused on history and the position of ethnic and national minorities in the Czech Republic) **with the aim of ensuring a multicultural climate and racial tolerance; on the role of mass media when combating racism and intolerance** (employing the members of vulnerable groups, eliminating negative stereotypes of demonstrations of a certain minority); **on the struggle against racially motivated violence with the consistent punishment of such criminal offences** (offences including the denial of genocides; assessing the option of criminal punishment for membership of organisations supporting racism and intolerance in compliance with Article 4 (b) of the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination); on the **struggle against organised movements suppressing human rights and freedoms** (consistent use of legal tools of their regulation); and on **adopting and implementing legal and administrative measures, including measures aimed at satisfaction particularly in the field of education, services and the provision of flats as well as exchange of experiences**. The Czech delegation also strived for the adoption of actual measures related to Roma inhabitants.<sup>186</sup>

The conference, which can be deemed a milestone in settling historical injustice and the course of which became for some delegations an occasion for ideological squabbles, eventually, and despite a confrontational atmosphere, came to consensual conclusions and adopted the **Declaration and Programme of Activities**<sup>187</sup>. **Participants are obliged to meet**

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<sup>186</sup> However, the Czech delegation did not enforce the drawing up of a definition of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the final documents of the conference along with a list of reasons why people become victims of these phenomena. The reason was because of disputes among opinions of individual delegations.

<sup>187</sup> The Declaration as well as the Programme of Activities is divided into parts devoted to sources, causes, forms, and current manifestations of racism, racial discrimination xenophobia, and related intolerance (historical events, social exclusion, poverty); victims (vulnerable groups in general, women and children, national and ethnic minorities, disabled people, original population, refugees, migrants, persons of African origin, Romas, etc.); preventative, educational and protective measures on national, regional, and international levels (ratification and implementation of international agreements, consistent punishment of racially motivated crimes, action programmes, education and educational campaigns, data collection, the role of civic society and non-profit organisations, the role of mass media); efficient measures of reform, indemnification, reparation, compensation and others (legal assistance, legislation and development assistance and co-operation); strategies on how to achieve full and efficient equality including international co-operation and strengthening mechanisms within as well as outside the UN in combating racism and intolerance and their implementation (national

both these documents through their national action plans aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.<sup>188</sup> The final consensus, in relation to measures to halt and reverse existing consequences of some past practices, is a valuable result of the conference along with the agreement on a global framework for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. From this point of view, despite a widely negative evaluation of the conference by the media, it is necessary, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to view the conference positively.

## **6.2 Evaluation of the Czech Republic by International Organisations from a Perspective of its Observation of Human Rights**

### **The Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities**

On 6 April 2001 at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities adopted an opinion on the situation of the meeting of commitments arising from the Framework Convention for the Czech Republic. In its opinion, the Committee appraised the efforts aimed at supporting national minorities and their culture, the endeavours by the Government to complete the legal framework of national minority protection and the establishment of advisory bodies of the Government to ensure the implementation of its policy towards minorities. Apart from its positive evaluations the opinion contained negative assessments as well. The Advisory Committee called the Czech Republic to ensure the implementation of rights arising from the Convention by strengthening the legal guarantee of principles provided in the constitutional order of the Czech Republic so that the implementation of rights arising from the Convention could be enhanced. The Committee also saw other options leading to improvement: to strengthen the implementation of obligations concerning the involvement of minorities in issues directly related to them, to ensure protection against discrimination and violence, to change the manner in which the Czech police treat Romas, and to broaden communication with them. Discrimination, mainly of Roma inhabitants, in various fields was regarded as a problem. Further, attention was paid to the position of minorities including the smaller minorities within the education system (special schools), within culture (access to media), and in the possibility of using their language in official relations.<sup>189</sup> *On 6 February 2002 the Committee of Ministers published its conclusions and recommendations in which they, inter alia, stated that despite the enhanced activities of the Government there was still room for improvement, and that the same applied to the police in terms of intercultural dialogue, tolerance and protection against ethnically motivated threats, violence and enmity, particularly in the case of Romas.*

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institutions, civic society, non-governmental organisations, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, control mechanisms, the Commission for Human Rights, and international legal instruments).

<sup>188</sup> See points 6,7 Follow-up on the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance 18 March.2002. CERD General Recommendation 28 (General Comments)

<sup>189</sup> The Czech Republic submitted to the Directorate for Human Rights of the Council of Europe its national commentary relating to the opinion of the Advisory Committee on 27 August. In December 2001, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the expert group for human rights additional information, *inter alia*, on discussion about the Draft School Act and on the establishment of the Council of the Czech Government for National Minorities, for the purpose of drawing up the Draft Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

## The Council of Europe, U.S. State Department

In 2001 the Committee for Political Affairs of the Council of Europe required the drawing up of a study which would deal with the threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements within Europe. The Czech Republic, along with Germany, Sweden and Slovakia, was assessed as a country with a high number of neo-Nazi skinheads and numerous attacks by skinheads, especially against Romas. In addition the study stated an increasing tolerance of the Czech general public towards manifestations of extremism.<sup>190</sup>

The Report of the U.S. State Department on the observation of human rights in the world during 2001 indicated, as in 2000, long-lasting violence of skinheads against Roma and other minorities and problems of the Roma ethnic group including unemployment, a low education rate, poverty, a higher disease rate, discrimination, and inter-ethnic violence.<sup>191</sup> In terms of inter-ethnic violence, the Report focused on some cases widely discussed in the media. At the same time it appreciated progress related to the positive trend in distinguishing racial motivations of crime.

On 20 February 2002 commissioner G. Verheugen made a speech at a meeting of the Committee of the European Parliament. In his speech he paid attention to the issue of enlargement and progress achieved in negotiations relating to justice and home affairs. He also devoted attention to Roma issues. He stated that **this minority was neither discriminated against by a state nor persecuted by the police in any candidate country.**

## 7. Measures Adopted to Eliminate Extremist Crime

### 7.1 Activities of the Government of the Czech Republic

In 2001, as in previous years, the Czech Government paid considerable attention to the area of human rights and to creating an optimal environment for the development of a multicultural, tolerant society as a natural barrier against xenophobia, racial or other similar ideologies. Therefore it emphasised the education of the whole of society on human rights, the improvement of mutual relations between the majority and the Roma minority, but also the position of the Roma minority in society.<sup>192</sup> With regard to the above-mentioned issues,

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<sup>190</sup> See the Council of Europe, Political Affairs Committee: "Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe. Rapporteur Mr. Henning Gjellerod, Denmark, SOC (Author: Mr. Nils Muiznieks, Director, Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies. AS/Pol/Inf (2001)25- 26 November 2001, p. 4 - 5. The published text concerning the Czech Republic de facto relies on only one main source of information, which is "Monitoring of the Process of Accession to the EU. Protection of minorities. The Report from the country: the Czech Republic" published and spread by the Open Society Institute EU Budapest 2001, which contains facts connected in various ways or glimpses from factographies which, as a consequence, distort a view of the real situation in the Czech Republic.

<sup>191</sup> See <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/eur> U.S. State Department. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2000. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. March 4, 2002. Czech Republic.

<sup>192</sup> In the course of 2001, Government Resolution No. 599 dated 14 June 2000 concerning the Political Concept of the Government Towards the Members of Roma Community Assisting Their Integration into Society (the assignments arising from this Concept were listed in the Annex thereof); Resolution No. 994 dated 11 October 2000 on measures to be adopted to arrange a nation-wide and parliamentary discussion on how to improve relations between the majority society and the Roma minority. By its Resolution No. 1145 dated 7 November 2001 the Government approved draft measures aimed at intensifying implementation of the Political Concept of

the Government focused, in compliance with recommendations by international institutions, on the need for a life-long educational process for policemen, state prosecutors and judges, as well as civil servants as a whole. The activities carried out by government advisory bodies such as the Council for Human Rights, the Council for Nationalities and the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs (formerly the Interdepartmental Commission for Roma Community Affairs) were also directed towards the same target. These bodies of the Czech Government in 2001 represented a platform where the delegated representatives of the state administration met with the representatives of non-governmental organisations and the general public. Within their competencies they strived to improve relations between ethnic minorities living in the Czech Republic and the majority society. From this point of view a project called “VARIANTS” deserve special attention as an example. It was the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs which was responsible for the project, however from the beginning of 2001 it has been implemented by the society “A Man under Straits” Its part was an advertising campaign with a central slogan “*Be kind to your local nazi!*” – “*Take Your Nazi Fancy. Help your municipal Nazi to find a praiseworthy hobby. Show him the way before he goes mad!*”<sup>193</sup> In this manner it was possible to provide space for a society-wide discussion about racism, which took place on the web-sites of the campaign [www.panackove.cz](http://www.panackove.cz). Follow-up surveys of public opinion showed that the campaign contributed to a shift in the perception of extremist groups by the general population, and in particular by the targeted group. A positive result was that this campaign helped to open a broad discussion about the issue of neo-Nazism.

The Czech Government included among security risks in 2001 extremism which shows anti-system attitudes, and procedure taken against this phenomenon was among its key priorities. The Government put emphasis upon eliminating racial discrimination, minimising racial attacks, and upon punishing such political parties and civic associations which would in any way support racism or related extremist ideologies. It also stressed uncompromising action to be taken against all racial and other extremist manifestations or activities carried out in the Czech Republic. This approach was expressed in a number of measures adopted with the aim of strengthening the systematic and strict punishment of these negative and socially dangerous phenomena at the level of state bodies.<sup>194</sup> As a response to progressive elements seen in the first months of 2001 in the development and activities of the Czech extremist scene, in particular of the right-wing, measures aimed at increasing pressure on this scene were adopted. These measures are contained in the two following resolutions:

- Government Resolution No. 498 dated 21 May 2001 concerning the “*Brief Information Related to the Enforcement of Legal Possibilities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police Towards Manifestations of Racism and Xenophobia*”

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the Government Towards the Members of Roma Community, and by its Resolution No. 87 dated 23 January 2002 the Government approved the Information on Meeting the Government Resolution Concerning Integration of Roma Communities and Active Approach of State Administration While Implementing Measures Adopted by These Resolutions by 31 December 2001“. Moreover, the Czech Government, for example, approved, by its Resolution No. 170 dated 20 February 2002, the “Report on Options to Adopt Measures Aimed at Eliminating Discrimination”

<sup>193</sup> This campaign took place from September to December 2001 with the aim of addressing young people aged between 15 and 25 years and to make it clear that neo-Nazism is a socially very dangerous phenomenon, and to point out the risk of an increasing number of young people professing right-wing extremism and groups demonstrating racial behaviour.

<sup>194</sup> The text contains only some, the most important activities of the Government regarding the issue monitored since a number of Government resolutions are directly related to the competencies of other departments of state administration and their overall overview concerning human right issues is provided in the Report on the Situation in Human Rights in the Czech Republic in 2001 which was approved by Government Resolution No. 390 dated 17 April 2002.

- Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001 concerning the “*Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2001*” containing “*Further measures aimed at strengthening the punishment of crimes with an extremist context, following up measures imposed by Government Resolution No. 720 dated 14 July 1999 concerning the “Report on the Approach of State Bodies Towards Punishment of Crimes Motivated by Racism and Xenophobia or Committed by Extremist Group Supporters and on Activities of Extremist Groups in the Czech Republic in 1998” and Government and Government Resolution No. 684 dated 12 July 2000 concerning the “Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 1999” and Government Resolution No. 498 dated 21 May 2001 No. 498 concerning “Brief Information Related to Enforcement of Legal Possibilities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police Towards Manifestations of Racism and Xenophobia”*”.<sup>195</sup>

In 2001, the Government took further important legislative steps. The following can be mentioned:

- Act No. 273/2001 Coll. on the rights of national minority members and on the amendment to some other acts, came into force on 2 August 2001,
- Act No. 3/2002 Coll., on freedom of religious conviction and the position of churches and religious societies, which came into force on 7 January 2002. In Sec. 5 of this Act there are conditions limiting the powers of churches and religious societies with the aim of preventing the registration of dangerous religious sects.

Last but not least it is necessary to mention the draft amendment to the Criminal Code. The Government adopted Resolution No. 579 dated 13 June 2001 relating to this amendment. The chamber of Deputies discussed the amendment as a Chamber of Deputies’ Journal No. 972 and approved it by its Resolution No. 2061 from 8 February 2002. **Act No.134/2002 Coll. amending No. 140/1961 Coll. the Criminal Code as amended will come into force on 1 July 2002.**

This amendment extends the scope of the crime of violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 (2) of the Criminal Code, the crime of defamation of a nation, race or conviction under Sec. 198 (1) of the Criminal Code, and the crime of incitement of nation and racial hatred under Sec. 198a (1) of the Criminal Code, so that these sections could provide criminal legal protection against serious attacks by a reason of membership of a certain ethnic group.

The punishment of crimes committed under Sec. 221 and Sec. 222 of the Criminal Code and the crime of extortion under Sec. 235 of the Criminal Code because of membership of a certain ethnic group have been made more strict.

Moreover, the punishment for the crime of incitement of national and racial hatred and the limitation of human rights and freedoms under Sec.198a was made more strict) by adding a new paragraph 3, according to which (*inter alia*): **one who publicly incites hatred of another nation, race, religion, class or another group of inhabitants or calls for the restriction of the rights and freedoms of their members shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of up to two years.**

However, the most important of these is the newly determined stronger punishment for **murder under Sec. 219 (2), where it is possible to sentence a person who committed a**

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<sup>195</sup> The Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry for Local Development, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Health, and the Director of the Security Intelligence Service, are all involved in implementing measures resulting from Government Resolution No. 903/2001

**murder because of the victim's race, nationality, ethnic group....to an exceptional term of imprisonment up to 25 years or life imprisonment.**<sup>196</sup>

*The Government evaluated the successfulness of the steps so far adopted in its "Report on the Situation in Implementing the Program Declaration and on the Activities of the Government of Czech Republic from March 2001 to Present".*<sup>197</sup>

## **7.2 The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic**

The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic responded to manifestations of racism and other forms of extremism by organising a public hearing of the Senate on the topic of "*Growing Manifestations of Racism in Our Society*".<sup>198</sup> The third public hearing of the Senate was held on 4 October 2001 and was attended by representatives of state bodies and institutions, representatives of churches, organisations of national minorities, non-governmental organisations, professionals and scientists. Participants dealt with problems tied to activities of neo-Nazism and their prosecution, and issues related to racism and xenophobia in Czech society. They agreed on the solution of all the problems discussed represented a long-term process to which the Senate could contribute by establishing a Working Group that would deal with this serious topic. The group should meet regularly.<sup>199</sup> *In 2002 (March) the Committee of the Senate of the Czech Parliament for Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Security took auspices of working seminar "Strategy for the Work of the Czech Police in Relation to Ethnic Minorities in the Czech Republic" which was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior and the embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*

## **7.3 The Activities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic**

In 2001, as in previous years, the Ministry of the Interior devoted its all-round attention to extremism. Extremism, racism, and xenophobia were perceived as supranational

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<sup>196</sup> The amendment of paragraph 3 of Sec. 198a was made in compliance with Article I A (d) (e) of the Joint Action approved by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on Establishing the European Union concerning struggle against racism and xenophobia which requires the Member States to efficiently co-operate in eliminating the crimes in questions. Extension of the scope of the above-stated crimes so that they could provide legal protection against serious attacks motivated by hate aimed against a certain ethnic group was made in compliance with the requirement of Council Directive 2000/43/EC dated 29 June 2000 to implement the principle of equal treatment among persons regardless of their racial or ethnic origin. This amendment to the Criminal Code was preceded by the amendment to the Act No. 405/2000 Coll., the Criminal Code, concerning Sections 198a (1), 260, 260 (1), 261 and the inclusion of new Section 261a. This amendment was initiated by the Chamber of Deputies and came to force on 1 December 2000.

<sup>197</sup> See Government Resolution No. 370 dated 10 April 2002 concerning the Program Declaration and on the Activities of the Government of the Czech Republic which described activities carried out by the Government during its term.

<sup>198</sup> See the 146<sup>th</sup> Resolution of the Senate from the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 29 June 2001 concerning the proposal to organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing on the basis of which the Senate "*joining the increasing number of warning voices expressing concerns on a growing neo-Nazi phenomenon in the Czech Republic and its alleged toleration on the side of state institutions and possible links of Czech and German neo-Nazis...*" called a public hearing of the Senate in accordance with Sec. 144 Act No. 107/1999 Coll., on the Senate's Rules of Procedure.

<sup>199</sup> See <http://www.senat.cz> Stenographic report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing held on 4 October 2001. In 2001, the Czech Senate arranged, for example, an international seminar "Tolerance, Respect, and Human Rights in 2001" (17 – 18 May) and a public hearing concerning "Creating Multicultural Environment Within the Civic Society of the Czech Republic and the Role of National Minorities in This Process" held on 14 June 2001 by the Committee for Education, Sciences, Culture, and Human Rights and Petitions.

phenomena crossing national borders, and thus called for a strengthening of international co-operation in fighting against it. Generally, the Ministry accented the importance of developing such co-operation at a qualitatively higher level and this is why it initiated proposals for new bilateral agreements on police co-operation, mainly with neighbouring countries and Hungary, which would reflect the issue of extremism. The determination of deeper international co-operation opened the way for activities within the Visegrad Four countries and Austria, resulting in the establishment of a working group, under the responsibility of the Czech Republic, for combating extremism in the countries of the V4 and Austria. With regard to the current development in the international situation after the terrorist attacks against the United States, the risks linked to the existence of the extremist scene came into the limelight. This scene represents a classic environment for a possible rise in the activities of political terrorism, and thus the need for a mutual exchange of findings and information at a qualitatively new level, including personal contacts among police experts at the international level, has arisen. These facts also added to growing demands for increasing the professional level of policemen involved in the issues of extremism and a change of philosophy of the police as a whole, so that the police are able to work and communicate with ethnical communities without any prejudice. In 2001, the Ministry of the Interior put a larger emphasis on educational projects, however preventative activities were not omitted. Last but not least, a priority of the Ministry was assistance to be provided to Roma applicants for jobs in the Police so that they could meet the prescribed requirements.

The attention of the Ministry of the Interior was devoted in 2001 to development and changes in the Czech extremist scene, and the need for adequate, striking responses from the side of repressive forces to its activities. First the permanent assignments and scheduled assignment arising from Government Resolutions were fulfilled on an ongoing basis.<sup>200</sup>

On the basis of Government Resolution No. 498 dated 21 May 2001, a range of specific measures was adopted, for example to draw up relevant methodologies on how respective bodies should proceed when combating manifestations of extremism, to ensure the regular and permanent updating of the database of unwanted persons (*persona non grata*) and to use this database to prevent foreign extremists from entering the Czech Republic; to enter into an internal agreement in the field of the issue of extremism to ensure a smooth flow of information between the Security Intelligence Service and the Czech Police.<sup>201</sup> Further measures to make the punishment of crimes with an extremist context stricter resulted from Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001. One of these which is of a fundamental nature, was to establish the Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism, and Xenophobia as an advisory body to the Minister of the Interior. The regular provision of information to the Prime Minister on all newly discovered or solved extremist crimes in the Czech Republic was of considerable importance. In 2001, the Ministry of the Interior participated in the proposal to ensure from an organisational and methodological point of view the struggle against republic-wide organised extremist crime with international aspects. The Ministry also drew up a “*Proposal of methodological instruction to ensure the co-ordinating of co-operation of state bodies with the Czech police forces in eliminating*

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<sup>200</sup> See **ANNEX No. 11: The Overview of Assignments of a Permanent Nature Resulting from Government Resolutions No. 720/1999, No. 684 /2000, and No. 498/2001 and Meeting Assignments Arising from Government Resolution No. 903/2001.**

<sup>201</sup> See Government Resolution No. 498/2001 concerning “Brief Information Related to the Enforcement of Legal Possibilities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police Towards Racism and Xenophobia” It is not a legislative proposal but a methodological instruction listing all legal means the Czech police can use to strengthen the punishment of extremist manifestations.

*extremist activities.*”<sup>202</sup> This proposal contained an analysis of the current options for co-operation between the Czech police units and the bodies of state supervision, municipalities and District Offices. This co-operation became a basis for outlining a methodology aimed at ensuring the efficient functioning of the system of co-ordinated co-operation among individual authorities of public administration in a particular area. As in the previous year, the Ministry of the Interior dealt with the issues of punishing registered organisations for any conduct breaching the legal conditions for their activities. Therefore, more offensive actions were carried out against organisations breaching the conditions of their registration.<sup>203</sup> Measures adopted in 2001 projected without any doubt into the larger striking force used by the Czech police against the extremist scene and into more intensive activities of state bodies when collecting findings the state power could use in the area of the right of assembly.

In 2001, the implementation of the project drawn up in 1999 and commenced in 2000 continued. The aim of this project is to establish the conditions for the successful enrolment of ethnic minority members in the police service. This project is implemented by the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Brno. Since 2000 and until 31 January 2002 five one-month training courses “**Preparing Citizens of National Minorities to Be Accepted to the Czech Police Service**” were held. 84 members of national minorities participated in the course. 21 of these joined the Czech police services. In 2001, 29 participants attended two training courses and 10 of them were successful. Of 19 participants attending the first training course in 2002 (January), three were successful. Successful participants of the training courses joined the Czech police and continue their education in the second type of training courses. This time there is **a five-month preparatory course for the citizens of national minorities** who are already policemen but their secondary education has not been completed. The objective of this course is to broaden and extend the knowledge and skills of students so that they could attend a two-year course through which they would achieve a complete secondary education, undergo professional training and become fully qualified policemen. A five-month course which had commenced in 2000, was finished in January 2001, , and in December 2001 the second course of this type was completed.

As of 4 September 2001 the Minister of the Interior appointed **an authorised representative of the Minister of the Interior for the issues of protection of national minorities against racial hatred**, who pays special attention to the issues of personnel and educational advisory services in the field of completing police forces by national minority applicants.<sup>204</sup>

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<sup>202</sup> This document was submitted to the members of the Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism and Xenophobia for their opinion at its first regular meeting held on 24 April 2002 and then it will be submitted for usual comments from the Ministries. **Through elaboration of this Methodological Proposal the assignment contained in point 5 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 from 12 September 2001 is being met.**

<sup>203</sup> A summary of information on entities officially registered with the Ministry of the Interior whose activities contradict the laws in accordance with which they were registered was drawn up in co-operation with the Security Intelligence Service. The government acknowledged this document by its Resolution No. 384 dated 19 April 2000. This document meant a change in “wording” (the way it is written) in relation to registered as well as unregistered organisations in the “Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic”. Information on entities the activities of which can be linked, according to responsible state bodies, with extremism, anti-system attitudes, or a danger of subversion activities, was made available to the public.

<sup>204</sup> Major. Stanislav Daniel who is of Roma nationality and works for the group for the exposure of extremist crime in the Office of Criminal and Investigation Police Service was appointed an authorised representative. On the grounds of his authorisation he is entitled to negotiate the protection of national minorities against racial hatred and related issues with all top officials of the Ministry of the Interior, the Czech police, organisations covered from the state budget or partially covered from the state budget established by the Ministry of the Interior, with the personnel of the Police Academy of the Czech Republic, with governmental and non-governmental organisations, with representatives of national minorities, and with individuals.

## **An International Dimension**

### **International Co-operation in the Field of Extremisms**

The issue of extremism and racism is usually taken into account in the new draft agreements on police co-operation.<sup>205</sup> Contractual regulation of co-operation in combating extremism with neighbouring countries and Hungary was as follows:

#### **The Federal Republic of Germany**

A currently applicable regulation laid down by the inter-governmental agreement on co-operation in combating organised crime from 1991 was amended by a regulation on new forms of co-operation. Such regulations are contained in the Agreement Between the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Co-operation of Police Bodies and Bodies Protecting the National Border in the Borderland Areas, signed on 19 September 2000, and the Agreement Between the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany concerning Annexes to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Affairs dated 20 April 1995 and on Simplifying Its Utilisation dated 2 February 2000. These agreements provide a sufficient legal framework for co-operation in the field of extremism although this area is not expressly included. The first of these agreements was ratified by the Czech party and the ratification process is in progress in Germany. The second will come into effect on 19 June 2002.

#### **Austria**

In October 2001 the Ministry of the Interior submitted to its Austrian counterpart a draft agreement on co-operation in combating crimes and protecting public order. This new draft agreement with Austria also included co-operation in the field of extremism, racial hatred and xenophobia. The so far valid agreement with Austria of 1988 regulates general co-operation in the area of revealing criminal offences, however it does not contain modern forms of co-operation with the utilisation of operative means, and it is insufficient in terms of providing personal data.

#### **Slovakia**

Negotiations on an expert level about the Draft Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on co-operation in combating crimes and protecting public order, which will replace the older, insufficient contractual regulation from this field of 1992, will commence in June 2002. The Czech draft agreement also includes, *inter alia*, the usage of operative means (agents, the hidden transfer of a thing, surveillance of persons and monitoring of articles). It also takes into account co-operation in the field of extremism, racism, and xenophobia.

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<sup>205</sup> One example is the signed agreement with Romania which is currently being discussed by the Parliament of the Czech Republic, or the agreement with Belgium which is being negotiated now. By such agreements the assignment imposed on the Minister of the Interior by Government Resolution No. 498/2001 point 2 (e) of the Annex to this Resolution is being met. New agreements on police co-operation with Slovakia, Austria, and Poland, which are being prepared, will not contain the possibility of across-the-border monitoring or of using agents in the territory of the counter party since the Ministry of Justice considers this type of co-operation to be exclusively international legal assistance falling under the responsibility of judicial bodies because the regulation allowing the use of operative means, so far regulated by the Act on Police, was, after the amendment of this Act, transferred to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

## Poland

A new draft agreement on co-operation in combating crime and protecting public order with Poland is in a preparatory phase. The agreement should have the same scope as the draft agreements with Austria and Slovakia and it should replace an inconvenient ministerial agreement of 1991 which does not include the issue of extremism in its lists of areas covered. The agreement does not regulate contemporary forms of co-operation such as using operative means and it is insufficient in terms of regulation of personal data provision.

## Hungary

The inter-governmental agreement of 1996 on co-operation in combating terrorism, illicit trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances and organised crime is presently applicable to relations between the Czech Republic and Hungary. However, this agreement does not expressly include extremism. Therefore in the first half of the year 2001 the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic sent to its Hungarian counterpart a draft of a new international agreement on police co-operation which contains the issue of extremism, racial hatred, and xenophobia. *The Hungarian side, however, has not yet responded to this draft.*

## Co-operation with the European Police Office (EUROPOL)

Effective from 1 January 2002, the scope of powers of the European Police Office was, by Decision of the Council of the European Union, extended into some new areas of criminal offence. The Agreement on Co-operation Between the Czech Republic and the European Police Office was signed on 5 March 2002. This Agreement, and its Amendment, on the basis of which the areas of co-operation will be extended to the issues of racism and xenophobia, were approved by the Chamber of Deputies and will be discussed by the Senate in the near future.

## **The Working Group of the Countries of V 4 and Austria Targeting Combating Extremism**

A working seminar of an ad hoc group of V 4 and Austrian experts called “*Seminar on Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Extremism and on the Role and Methods of the Police*” was held in Prague on 13–14 March 2001 under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior. This group expressed the need to reflect the danger related to extremism which can, by its nature, endanger the democratic grounds of a state in a situation when a common geopolitical area brings some, differently modified, but as a matter of fact, identical problems. The group identified as common points for mutual discussion, for example, activities carried out by right-wing extremist skinheads and their supporters having clear supranational features; political entities existing at the edge of a political spectrum which are typified by their populist anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic rhetoric; issues related to left-wing radicals who “travel” from one country to another to take part in certain events during which they commit crimes of violence; or the manifestation of racial verbal and physical attacks. The seminar confirmed how urgent the issues of extremism are and its participants declared their readiness to further co-operate aimed at seeking common solutions and processes against these phenomena.<sup>206</sup> On 10 October the meeting of the ministers of V 4 and Austria was held in the chateau of Gödöllő, Hungary. One of the conclusions which the meeting came to was to establish a working group for combating extremism. It is the Czech Republic that is responsible for this task.

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<sup>206</sup> On the basis of findings gathered at this seminar and at the meeting of the working group it is possible to say that the Czech Republic overtook the participating countries in ensuring the issues of extremism from an institutional point of view.

The first working meeting of the group of V 4 countries and Austria for combating extremism was held on 7 and 8 February 2002. Its participants unambiguously agreed on the need to intensify the mutual exchange of information on the issues of extremism. With respect to this they committed to mutually exchange available information and documentation about extremist scenes, entities operating on these scenes, on the development of extremist criminal offences, and on any partial problems in the field of extremist crime. The working group also recommended initiating within the existing regional co-operation regular working meetings of police units of individual neighbouring countries and to enter into personal contact with experts since such links would ensure direct communication. Without any doubt the most important act was **the Agreement on Determining National Contact Centres** on the level of the police or a relevant Ministry which would serve, if necessary, for the direct mutual communication of experts dealing with the issue of extremism. The agreement among the participants on the closest possible co-operation and operative exchange of information when preparing measures aimed at the security of the November NATO summit in Prague is very important for the Czech Republic.<sup>207</sup> *The date of the next meeting of this working group was preliminarily scheduled for 26 – 27 February 2003.*

## **Advisory Bodies Within the Ministry of the Interior**

### **The Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism, and Xenophobia (hereinafter “the Commission”)<sup>208</sup>**

The constituent meeting of the Commission was held on 8 November 2001 and was chaired by the Minister of the Interior. The participants of the meeting received the Draft Statutes and the Draft Rules of Procedure drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior. During the constituent meeting of the Commission, after evaluating the comments on both aforementioned documents delivered from all relevant Ministries and departments, the Ministry of the Interior came to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to suggest an amendment to Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001 so that the Commission could become an advisory body to the Minister of the Interior and the attendance of the members of Government would not be obligatory. It was suggested that Commission members should be representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Security Intelligence Service, and authorised representatives of the Government for Human Rights. These members could be completed by a representative of the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office, the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, the Prime Minister’s Office, the Office for Foreign Relations and Information, or other experts respectively. The suggested amendment was approved by Government Resolution No. 238 dated 6 March 2002. This amendment enabled the inclusion of the commission in the system of current advisory bodies existing within the executive and allowed the establishment of a working team on an expert level capable of operatively responding to an actual development in the extremist scene in the Czech Republic with the

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<sup>207</sup>Point 5 of “the Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Working Group of V 4 and Austria for Combating Extremism” recommended that the Czech party would organise a meeting of the working group on an expert level in September 2002. This meeting should focus on preparation for the NATO summit (Prague, November 2002). Representatives of V 4 and Austria at the same time agreed that German representatives and representatives of intelligence services of participating states would be invited for the next meeting.

<sup>208</sup> **The task contained in point 3 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001 was completed by establishment of the Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism, and Xenophobia.**

potential for the state administrative bodies taking a fast and co-ordinated approach against this negative social phenomenon.

*The Commission approved the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure at its meeting held on 24 April 2002.*

#### The Scope of Powers of the Commission

The Commission processes information and draws up draft measures to be adopted for the Minister of the Interior so that he can ensure the co-ordinated approach of state administrative bodies to the struggle against extremism, racism, and xenophobia. Through its members it checks whether the measures adopted are met.

In particular the Commission:

- every year draws up a proposal for priorities in combating extremism, racism, and xenophobia;
- collects and evaluates information on current ministerial tasks and assignments arising from Czech Government Resolutions; such tasks should be fulfilled by individual state administrative bodies and they should fully or completely relate to the solution of an issue in question;
- deals with current development and trends in the Czech extremist scene and outlines proposals on how to address identified risks;
- takes opinions concerning proposals of governmental, departmental and other measures relating to the struggle against extremism, racism, and xenophobia;
- assesses the possibilities of co-operation of state bodies with non-governmental organisations dealing with the same issue;
- prepares, negotiates and recommends amendments to legal regulations concerning the struggle against extremism, racism, and xenophobia;
- monitors the compliance of national measures adopted against extremism, racism, and xenophobia with international legal obligations of the Czech Republic and proposes amendments with the view of achieving such compliance;
- is entitled to require co-operation by relevant state administrative bodies so that it can meet its assignments;
- informs the Czech Government of its activities through the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic.

#### **The Working Group of the Council of the Czech Government for the Issues of the Roma Community in the Field of Home Affairs and the Czech Police<sup>209</sup>**

This working group which is chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Interior ensures the solution of both urgent and strategic matters in the field of integration and other issues of the Roma community including close contacts with “the street”.<sup>210</sup> In 2001, the working group had four meetings. It discussed issues related to the security of Romas, the problems of racially motivated crimes, and the position of Roma co-ordinators in individual regions. In addition, it dealt with the problem of usury within the Roma community, discrimination of Romas when entering restaurants and similar facilities and in employment of Romas in the

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<sup>209</sup> This is the new name of the working group of the Interdepartmental Commission for Roma Community Affairs in the field of home affairs and the Czech police. As a consequence of the change of status of the Commission its name was changed to the Council of the Czech Government for Roma Community Affairs which was approved by Government Resolution No. 1371

<sup>210</sup> This working group will consist of 16 permanent members (including the chairman and vice-chairman) and 3 permanent guests. The chairman is the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, JUDr. Petr Ibl, and the vice-chairman is Mr. Julius Horvath, a member of the Council of the Government for Roma Community Affairs.

police services. Simultaneously, it discussed the possibility of co-operating with the Commission for Racial Equality in Great Britain. This working group represents a suitable platform for solving individual complaints relating to the failures of the Czech police when investigating crimes where the victim was a Roma citizen.

## **Applying the State Power in the Field of the Right of Assembly**

In relation to entities operating within the extremist scene in the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior dealt in 2001 with the documents downloaded from the web sites of the Patriotic Front and the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek. Such data is especially important for contingent intervention into their activities in accordance with an applicable legal regulation.

With regards to the activities of the Patriotic Front published in their Newsletter, it is necessary to state that, on the basis of collected information, the signatures of any representatives of the PF were not found under the majority of articles. The Action Programme of the Patriotic Front corresponds, after having been modified, to the wording required by the Ministry of the Interior in its summons from 1999.

In the case of the *Republika* (i.e. Republic) Weekly, the publisher is a physical person who is a member of the Board of the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek, however from a legal point of view its publishing activities can not be automatically identified with activities carried out by the Republicans of Miroslav Sladek. With respect to the aforementioned facts it was possible to build on articles which expressively presented official opinions of the subjects mentioned above. These opinions, however, did not suggest that a legitimate discussion on the pages of press was violated.

In 2001, the Ministry of the Interior decided either to dissolve a civic association or to reject the registration of a political party or registration of the alteration of its status, in the following cases:

- On 21 May 2000 the Ministry of the Interior made the decision to reject the registration of the modified Statutes of the Patriotic Republican Party (currently the Right Alternative). This decision was confirmed by the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16 April 2002. However the Supreme Court agreed only with a part of the justification of the decision in question, concerning the violation of the provisions of Sec. 2 (3) of the Act on Political Parties which stipulate that only a citizen older than 18 years can be a member of a party or a movement. On the other hand, the court disagreed with the arguments relating to the change of the name of the Patriotic Republican Party to the National Social Block, and the change of the abbreviation to the “NSB”. According to the opinion of the Supreme Court, *the abbreviation “NSB” itself is not able (with the exception of persons who are interested in history and operations of extremist entities) to make this party like the formerly prohibited extremist entity and thus to cause identification of the party with the orientation programme, activities or targets of the prohibited entity. The comparison of the aforementioned abbreviation “NSB” which is only a composition of the initials of the proposed name of the party, i.e. the National Social Block, to the same abbreviation of an entity which is not significantly remembered by the current population of the Czech Republic is not essential because it is supposed that the majority of people do not know this abbreviation.* Furthermore, the Supreme Court stated that *“the name of the party or its abbreviation cannot be assessed in the process of registration of the Statutes or their amendments in the context of previous activities or a programme of the party and thus it is not possible to make a decision on rejecting the registration of the altered Statues consisting of a change in the name and abbreviation on this basis. If an administrative*

*body finds out that the activities carried out by the party contradict the provisions of Sec. 4 of the Act then this body can institute a motion to commence proceedings in accordance with Sec. 14 and following of the Act, i.e. proceedings aimed at suspending the activities of this party pursuant to reasons laid down in the provisions of Sec. 14 (1) of the Act. However, such findings concerning the activities of the party cannot be the basis for the decision rejecting the registration of the altered Statutes pursuant to Sec. 8 (1) of the Act in relation to Sec. 11 (2) because the subject matter of such proceedings is the Statues and not the activities carried out by the party.”*

- Under Sec. 12 (3) (a) and (c) of Act No. 83/1990 Coll. the civic association Republican Youth (RY) was summoned on 27 July 2001 (RM) to cease activities which contradicted provisions of Sec.1 (3) (a) and Sec. 4 (a) of the Act. The reason was the data contained in the “Programme of RY” published by the Republican Youth (RY) on their official websites. Two items of the Programme were considered to be discriminatory and to contradict the principle that a civic movement cannot carry out activities reserved for political parties and political movements. Although the Republican Youth in its explanation of 29 October 2001 promised to cease illicit activities by amending the Programme, this was not altered by 31 January 2002. **The Ministry of the Interior decided to dissolve the Republican Youth (RY).** *The Republican Youth (RY) filed for an appeal against this decision with the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, this however has not yet been decided upon.*
- On 27 July 2001 the Ministry of the Interior made the decision not to register the modified Statutes of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia containing a change of its name to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia – the Czechoslovak Party of Work. *The Supreme Court has not yet made its decision about an appeal filed against this decision.*
- By a decision of 12 December 2001, which was the fifth decision of this type, the registration of the National Party was rejected again.<sup>211</sup> However, the reason for such rejection from the side of the Ministry (from 12 Dec 2001) was the fact that the Statutes violated a legal requirement concerning the differences in names and abbreviations of political parties and political movements. Actually, the Statues themselves did not contradict the Act on Assembly in Political Parties and Political Movements (hereinafter “the Act on Political Parties”), the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms with respect to the democratic nature of the Statutes, and the right for assembly which was the reason for all previous rejections. The Ministry of the Interior came to the conclusion that the National Party cannot be registered and, if it is later registered by decision of the Court, this registration might contradict the relevant Act.

Providing Information to the General Public on Threats and Forms of Extremist Conduct

**Preventative Information Groups of the Czech Police** – at the end of 2001 there were **73** groups (+10; 63 in 2000), playing an important role in support of and everyday contact with the representatives of Roma communities. The groups are responsible for informing about the danger of racially motivated crimes; they should provide legal information to children and adults and help remove prejudice between Romas and the majority population. They help increase trust of ethnic groups in work and professionalism of the Czech police. Thus information on extremism is provided also at the level of the local police services and it is spread to the media and among citizens.

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<sup>211</sup> In this case the proposal for registration was filed by the preparatory committee although at that time the Supreme Court had not yet decided on the remedy filed against the similar decision of the Ministry of the Interior of 17 July 2001.

The Press and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of the Interior paid attention to the issue of extremism and tried to elucidate it to citizens and to reveal the possible risks linked to extremism. The Ministry of the Interior published on its web-sites the Report on the issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2000 and disclosed information on the extremist scene, and answered the questions of journalists and citizens relating to this sensitive topic. It publicised the third round of a competitions for primary school children "How I See It", which included topics such as "Extremism" and "Racism". Further media channels which were used to reach the general public and increase its awareness of the issues of extremism in 2001 were the Press Service of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior, and the journals "Policeman" and "Criminalistics". During the course of 2001, 16 articles dealt with the issues of extremism, primarily focusing on, for example, the phenomenon of extremism and its legal and social aspects, and measures adopted by the Government and the Czech police to increase efficiency in the struggle against racism and xenophobia. The articles also described the role and importance of expert opinions or types of offenders.

### **The Problem of Extremism in the Preventative Crime System**

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the activities of the Republic Committee for Crime Prevention. Among the practical results of its work, the implementation of the "Crime Prevention Programme at Local Levels" can be mentioned.<sup>212</sup> This Programme enables the enhancing of inter-ethnic relations and adverse social situations of some Roma communities, its impact is also the positive emancipation of individual Romas at local levels, and at the same time it preventatively affects xenophobic attitudes and extremist manifestations at local levels. The Programme, inter alia, tries to decrease the social handicaps of Romas and support their complete integration into the majority society.<sup>213</sup> In 2001, in total, 28 projects were supported by an amount of CZK 2,280,000. The municipal councils which contribute financially are responsible for implementing these projects.<sup>214</sup> In 2001, among these projects there were projects which, apart from other things, focused on potential offenders, although not on specifically selected members of extremist organisations or their active supporters. They concentrated on persons who do not have any criminal record, or persons punished for misdemeanours or similar pathological activities.

In mind of strengthening prevention in 2001, the Ministry of the Interior initiated the organisation of "round tables". Contacted were mayors and burgomasters of 93 municipalities which implemented in 2001, or intend to implement in 2002, the "Programme of Crime Prevention at Local Levels". These discussions should become the grounds for more intensive communication, mutual understanding and the solution of urgent local problems. They should be ad hoc meetings and should become a platform for a continual, uninterrupted dialogue. Along with initiatives concerning round-tables, municipal councils were asked to describe their current contact with ethnic and national minorities within their municipality and their manner of solving the problems of these communities<sup>215</sup>. *Of the total of 93 contacted*

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<sup>212</sup> The municipalities with the highest criminal rate and with a culmination of other pathological social phenomena such as poverty, unemployment, extremist conduct, and so on, are included in this Programme.

<sup>213</sup> The reason for such efforts is an assumption that long-lasting and deep social handicaps often lead to asocial conduct and to ethnic hatred, the extreme form of which are racially motivated violent crimes.

<sup>214</sup> Non-governmental organisations, schools and self-government implemented the most projects from 1996 – 2001, charities, state administration, the municipal police and sports club participated to a much smaller extent.

<sup>215</sup> By this initiative, assignment No. 4, which arose from the meeting of the Minister of the Interior held on 8 August 2001, has been fulfilled ("To initiate round tables in regions with the participation of representatives of the police, self-governments and minorities and thus to contribute to mutual understanding and to take the edge

*municipalities with respect to the “Programme of Crime Prevention at Local Levels” in 2002, 88 are implementing this Programme this year; 49 municipalities (i.e. 52 % of the municipalities implementing the Programme in 2002) responded to the invitation to participate in “round table” discussions along with the police, self-governments and minorities, thus trying to solve local problems with Roma communities; 12 of them are ready to implement discussions in the form of round tables; 19 municipalities have implemented a certain form of such discussions; one municipality has not yet made up its mind; and 17 municipalities are not interested in organising such discussions at all.*

The Ministry of the Interior acts as the Secretariat of the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Commission for Fan Violence and Unsuitable Conduct During Sports Matches, Particularly Football Matches. The activities of the Commission concentrate on improving the co-operation of the Czech police with sports clubs while preparing and implementing security measures focused on football and ice hockey matches. The Commission also provides information to the Czech police and sports unions on current European trends aimed at enhancing security at stadiums and preventing fan violence (barriers, fences, effective control of a crowd using for example CCTV). The Ministry of the Interior is a representative of the Czech Republic in the Permanent Committee of the European Convention on Fan Violence and Unsuitable Conduct During Sports Matches, Particularly Football Matches, that was established by the Council of Europe.<sup>216</sup> In compliance with the priorities of the Council of Europe and Resolutions adopted by the European Conference of Ministers responsible for sports, the Czech Republic paid higher attention in 2000–2001 to the prevention of racism, xenophobia and intolerance in sports. On 13 July 2001 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the “Council of Europe’s Recommendation to Prevent Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance” which was drawn up with considerable contribution by the Czech Republic.<sup>217</sup>

### **Training for Roma Advisors**

On 12–14 November 2001 the Ministry of the Interior held, in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the Interdepartmental Commission for Roma Community Affairs, a seminar for Roma advisors working at District Offices and Municipal Councils where the Council of Europe’s policy concerning the protection of national minorities, application of and adherence to the Framework Convention on National Minority Protection and European Commission’s activities aimed against racism and intolerance had been presented. The discussion related to the issues of application of the newly adopted Act on National Minorities, the updated “Roma Integration Strategy”, and the future of Roma advisors in the new arrangement of the state administration, including issues of social work among Roma communities.

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off conflicts through open discussions on all pressing problems). The Ministry of the Interior recommended the municipal councils to invite to the round tables police experts involved in the issues of extremism at District and Regional levels, Roma advisors and assistants of District Offices or co-ordinators of Roma advisors at Regional Councils, members of the “Working Group of the Council of the Czech Government for Roma Community Affairs for Home Affairs and the Czech Police”, representatives of special departments of Municipal Councils, representatives of Roma civic associations, and Roma political parties and informal clubs. With regard to the organisation of round tables, their content and staffing the responsible party for this initiative, the Prevention Crime Department of the Ministry of the Interior, offered to the municipalities its experience gathered through the implementation of preventative activities at local levels.

<sup>216</sup> In 2000, a Czech representative was elected as the First Vice-Chairman of this body.

<sup>217</sup> In December 2000, the Ministry of the Interior organised in Prague a meeting of the working group to prepare the “Recommendation”. Then a representative of the Czech Ministry of the Interior presented the prepared proposals at the “**Third Fair Play Round Table**” held in April 2001 in Cyprus.

## Educational Projects

Preparation and education of the new generation of policemen, including the strategy of life-long education for policemen and investigators, remained among the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior.

The **Czech-British seminar under the name “Police Work in the Field of National Minorities Protection”**, the draft project **“Strategy for Police Work in Relation to Ethnic Minorities”** and drawing up the concept of education in the field of combating extremism contained in the **“Project of Educational Activities and a Discussion Platform for Policeman in the Field of Combating Extremism so that They Acquire Basic and Special Knowledge on This Phenomenon and Methods of Combating It”** were among the most significant activities carried out by the Ministry of the Interior in this field in 2001.<sup>218</sup> The fact that respect for and protection of rights of an individual and society, on the side of the police, can be one way to eliminate extremist tendencies, was taken into account in the **“Concept of Life-Long Compulsory Education of Employees of the Czech Police”**, a part of which is training in human rights and education about them.<sup>219</sup> The aforementioned projects could be completed by the project of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) approved in autumn 2001, however it should be implemented in 2002.<sup>220</sup>

In the course of 2001 six three-day seminars, the topic of which was “police work in the field of national minority protection”, were held with Czech-British co-operation, aimed at modern police work. These seminars followed-up a pilot seminar held in 2000.<sup>221</sup> More than 150 members of the Czech police mainly from a group of experts trained for combating extremism, teachers in secondary police schools, and 40 members of national minorities (Romans, Czech Africans and Indian nationals) participated in these seminars. The seminars represented the first official discussion platform for security force representatives and representatives of non-governmental organisations or representatives of ethnic minorities. All-round social co-operation is a fundamental precondition of police work in a democratic society, and it was this project which was to open the way for creating partnerships in police work. Under the guidance of British experts in police training and issues of minorities, these seminars were three days of lively discussions during which ways in which to apply British experiences of the Czech situation were considered, and possibilities for preventing and eliminating racism and xenophobia were jointly sought. From final evaluation questionnaires it was obvious that the seminars highly exceeded expectations. The participants valued as most beneficial the presence of ethnic minority members and the opportunity to have an open dialogue with them. The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office assessed the seminars as the most successful project of 2001 in Central and Eastern Europe. The trainers as well as the participants of the seminars agreed that the level of knowledge of members of the Czech police is not sufficient with regard to the issues in question, and that it would be necessary to

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<sup>218</sup> **The above-stated concept is a project dealing with the given issue at the level of Ministry of the Interior in compliance with item 6 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001**, which requires the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports to draw up and submit to the Government a draft Concept of Training in the Field of Combating Extremism.

<sup>219</sup> This Concept was drawn up in compliance with Government Resolution No. 28 dated 3 January 2001 concerning the Report on Education Towards Human Rights in the Czech Republic.

<sup>220</sup> The objectives of this Project are as follows: to develop co-operation of the police, state administration and minority communities at local levels; to organise round tables aimed at seeking joint ways to solve problems of municipalities; to improve skills in solving conflicts.

<sup>221</sup> The idea of organising seminars was aroused as a response to the results of the International Symposium “Role of Police Forces in Combating Racism and Xenophobia” held in Stirin in 1999, and was supported by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Stanislav Gross, and the ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mr. David Broucher.

continue with similar educational events. Potential trainers were selected among the participants who should in the future, without the assistance of foreign partners, facilitate seminars aimed at police work in the field of ethnic minorities. *As a follow-up to the aforementioned seminars, "Training of Future Czech Trainers For Work with Minorities" was commenced in March 2002. The goal of which is to create a domestic base of trainers who will facilitate the education of Czech policemen for their work in the field of ethnic minorities.*<sup>222</sup>

The main objective of the project "Strategy for Police Work in Relation to Ethnic Minorities", commenced in August 2001,<sup>223</sup> is to enforce principles of modern police work emphasising the conception of police work as a service for the public and to find new legitimate sources for police work in a multicultural society. The "Strategy" should provide actual measures and the co-ordination of individual steps leading to the better work of police forces, and aim to contribute to the improvement of ethnic and national relations in the Czech Republic.

Implementation of the "Project of Educational Activities and a Discussion Platform for Policeman in the Field of Combating Extremism so that They Acquire Basic and Special Knowledge on This Phenomenon and Methods of Combating It" was divided into three levels of the educational process so that it covers not only the education of new policemen in the system of basic preparation implemented by the secondary police schools of the Ministry of the Interior, but so that it also covers the education of policemen active within basic police units and especially police professionals dealing systematically with the issue of extremism

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In addition, the Ministry of Education organised the following courses/seminars:

- "a working seminar targeted at options state bodies have in their approach towards organisations registered with the Ministry of the Interior, political parties, and movements which by their activities or personnel links create grounds or provide logistics or political support for Czech extremism and its criminal manifestations" (July 2001). A benefit of this seminar was in the composition of participants which enabled a wide exchange of opinions and information from various points of view.<sup>225</sup>

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<sup>222</sup> The main objective of this one-week seminar was to prepare participants for being "a trainer" by broadening their knowledge concerning the issues of multi-ethnic society, developing their teaching skills and their self-confidence for moments when they will have to fight against the prejudices of their colleagues. **The scope and exact conditions of future trainers and the possible participation of members of ethnic minorities will be given in the strategy for Police Work in Relation to Ethnic Minorities" which is being drawn up at the moment.**

<sup>223</sup> This is a Czech-British project for which the British Home Office is responsible as well. In autumn 2001, a delegation consisting of top officials of the Ministry of the Interior, members of Czech police management, and politicians who in January 2002 took part in the secondment in Great Britain. **The Ministry of the Interior will have drawn up by 30 June 2002 a basic proposal for the "Strategy" which will be submitted to all involved governmental and non-governmental organisations for comments.**

<sup>224</sup> With regards to the basic professional preparation of policemen and policemen active in so called management practice the project will be implemented by the gradual inclusion of individual block topics from the field of combating extremism and extremism as whole into the syllabus of subjects concerning security issues at secondary police schools of the Ministry of the Interior and at Training Police Centres of the Czech Police at the level of regions. Further education of police experts directly involved in combating extremism will take the form of specialised seminars and special on-the-job-training, which will also be held at the international level, facilitated by foreign trainers. The responsible parties are: the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Academy of the Czech Republic and Secondary police schools of the Ministry of the Interior.

<sup>225</sup> Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Police President, representatives of penal proceeding bodies, professionals from universities, a former authorised representative of the Government for human rights, and representatives of general public.

- A seminar "*Extremism and Law* " (December 2001) was attended by members of the Czech police, state prosecutors and judges. It focused on problems relating to the substantiation of crimes linked especially to right-wing extremism, and on making co-operation with penal proceeding bodies as optimal as possible.

## Legislative Measures of the Ministry of the Interior

Preparation of the Draft Act on the Right of Assembly was among the most important activities in this field. It was the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior to draw up the legal intention of the Act on the Right of Assembly based on experience of assemblies held during the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Meeting. One of the objectives of this new legal regulation is to prevent or limit to a high degree disturbances and vandalism during assemblies of crowds of people, including extremist activities. The legal intention of this Act was approved by Government Resolution No. 472 dated 14 May 2001. The Government Bill on the Right of Assembly and on Amendments to Some Other Acts was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament on 7 November 2001. In the third reading on 2 May 2002 (Journal No. 1163), the Chamber of Deputies passed the Amendment to Act No. 84/1990 Coll. on the Right of Assembly which stipulates that the participants of any assembly are not allowed to cover their faces in a manner which makes their identification more difficult or makes their identification impossible during intervention by the Czech police. Violating of this is a misdemeanour which can be penalised by a fine of up to the amount of CZK 10,000.

## Elaboration of the Issue of Extremism Within the Czech Police

### Organisational Changes

By establishing a special unit at the Police Presidium (1995) and introducing specialisation at the levels of regions and districts (1996), the foundation for combating extremism was laid. By adopting internal management principles at the level of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Presidium (1999), work on the issue of extremism and the elimination of extremist crimes was systematically and widely facilitated.<sup>226</sup>

In connection with the preparation of extensive conceptual changes within the Czech police in 2001 which came into effect on 1 January 2002, new internal management procedures were elaborated. A substantial change was the integration of Criminal Police Units and Bureaux of Investigation, i.e., the merging into one unit of formerly traditionally separated preparatory criminal proceedings and pre-trial proceedings. As a consequence, **the Criminal and Investigation Bureau of the Police Presidium** was set up on 1 January 2002 and a special group for extremism operating within the Department of General Crime of the then Criminal Office of the Police Presidium was renamed to the **Group for Exposing Extremist Crime**. An ongoing trend of higher professionalism seen among extremist entities, their links to foreign structures and concealed activities required further changes consisting in strengthening this specialisation.

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<sup>226</sup> Instruction of the Minister of the Interior No.33 dated 30 April 1999 for extension of punishment for and prevention of crimes and misdemeanours of racial or extremist nature, the Binding Instruction of the Police President No. 70 from 23 June 1999 that regulates the activities of members of the Czech police in their fight against extremist crimes which, in its Article 6, defines assignments of experts on fan violence (cancelled in 2002) The Instruction of the Director of the Czech Bureau of Investigation No. 2 from 1 June 1999, which determines the organisation for investigation of crimes motivated by racism, cancelled on 1 January 2002.

The evaluation of the issue of extremism in 2001 showed the need to facilitate the struggle against organised republic-wide extremist crime with international aspects, in terms of organisation and best practices. Detection of extremist organisations, structures or individuals operating in a conspiratory manner is very difficult and requires the use of concealed police operations, persons or agents who know the environment which is being investigated. The usual operative investigative methods proved to be inefficient. Therefore a proposal for reorganisation of the Unit of Terrorism of the Section for Revealing Organised Crime (SROC) of the then Service of the Criminal Police was drawn up. The Unit of Terrorism was cancelled as of 1 April 2002 and a new **Department of Terrorism and Extremism**, consisting of two units with nine employees, was established.<sup>227</sup> This organisational change was supported by methodology contained in the Binding Instruction of the Police President No. 100/2002.

### **Binding Instruction of the Police President No. 100 dated 6 June 2002**

This internal management instruction, which replaced Binding Instruction of the Police President No. 70/1999, regulates the activities of policemen working in the field of combating extremist crime and is in compliance with organisational changes made. Staff of the Extremist Unit of the Department of Terrorism and Extremism of the SROC will deal with organised extremist crime, i.e., consistently committed extremist criminal offences by a group made up of a higher number of persons which has an internal organisational structure, divided “posts” and activities.<sup>228</sup> The Group of Extremist Crime of the Department of General crime of the Criminal and Investigation Bureau of the Czech police and experts in regions and districts dealing with extremism will be involved in the issue of extremism as well, concentrating on exposing offenders of criminal offences committed in relation to extremism, racial hatred, xenophobia and so on. The duty of the Group for Exposing Extremist Crime to gather and analyse the data from documents, the press, CDs and other materials concerning activities of extremist entities, and its duty to provide information to the Minister of the Interior on utilising operative technology and police agents when eliminating extremism, are of high importance.<sup>229</sup> The aforementioned Obligatory Instruction facilitates the coherence of processes used in combating extremism, and moreover it puts an emphasis on the more effective co-operation of intelligence service with penal proceeding bodies.

### **Personnel Coverage of Extremism**

In 2001, the personnel working on the issues of extremism was stabilised, and a range of employees have worked on these issues for a number of years. However, specialists concentrating on extremism had to meet some other tasks related for example to crimes committed by youth and against youth, moral crimes, and crimes in spreading drugs and addiction. These were not long-term tasks which could have caused a discontinuity of work on extremist issues. In order that work in extremist cases is successful, a policeman involved should personally know the local crime in the territory which he is responsible for, and he should on an ongoing basis collect and assess data especially of operative nature. However, problems related to material and technical equipment were outstanding (e.g. missing

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<sup>227</sup> **By the establishment of this unit within the SRCO the assignment contained in item 4 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001 was met.**

<sup>228</sup> The tasks of the Department of Terrorism and Extremism of the SRCO are specified in Chapter II, Article 8 of Binding Instruction No. 100/2002.

<sup>229</sup> See Binding Instruction No. 100/2002, Chapter II, Article 7. They are inter-ministerial assignments which resulted from the meeting of the Minister of the Interior held on 8 August 2002 and the fulfilment of which is ensured through this internal document.

computers, access to the Internet, digital cameras, a lack of motor vehicles). Thus, these specialists could into adverse situations face to face with offenders of extremist crimes.

### **Preventative Activities of the Czech Police**

The preventative activities of the Czech police in the field of extremism were considered individually, therefore their level and intensity differed in individual regions. Mainly there were lectures and discussions with pupils and teachers at schools and educational facilities or training courses for policemen working at local police departments. Members of the Czech police maintained contact with the municipal police, Municipal Councils, and Roma advisors working at District Offices. In some cases, for example in North Moravia, police experts analysed their findings<sup>230</sup> from during their discussions and lectures for youth in terms of the issues they are solving.

### **Training of Policemen and Investigators**

The ongoing education of policemen involved in the issue of extremism remained a priority:

In 2001, the **Professional Information and Documentary Centre for Education in Human Rights**, established in 2000 at the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Prague 9 – Hrdlořezy, was almost finished. Secondary police schools devoted their increased attention to outlining syllabuses for teaching the problems of extremism. Extremist issues are now incorporated into the secondary police school syllabus in some of the subjects, e.g. uniform police service, law, police deontology or applied psychology for the students of basic professional preparation. Some special lectures related to extremism are incorporated into human sciences taught to students who are preparing for school-leaving examinations, and to the students of supplementary programmes. The project “**Neighbours**” also contributed to developing tolerance among the younger generation of policemen.<sup>231</sup> In addition, in the academic year 2001/2002, seminars “**1938 Racism – 2000 Humanity**” (the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Prague) and “**Extremist Manifestations in the Current Society**” (the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Jihlava) were commenced. The Police Academy of the Czech Republic paid considerable attention to the issues in question within its study programmes and topics for diploma works as well. At the end of 2001 (26–28 November 2001) the Police Academy organised an international conference - “**Extremism, Its Roots, Manifestations, and Possibilities for Its Solution**”.<sup>232</sup>

In 2001, as in previous years, the further education of policemen and investigators was ensured through basic Czech police units and investigation bureaux, mainly in the form of lectures and technical seminars. In addition, selected policemen participated in seminars organised by foreign partners. Participants attending technical seminars were informed especially about new trends in crimes with an extremist nature, they could also exchange experiences related to the investigations and clearing up of racially motivated crimes. The handbook “Extremism” and publication “Symbols of Extremist Movements” solving the

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<sup>230</sup> A survey followed by an analysis of opinions on extremist issues provided by a part of North Bohemian Young respondents including the right-wing as well as left-wing extremist spectrum was the first attempt of this kind. The objective was to find out the degree of possible “extremist potential” among young people entering a productive age.

<sup>231</sup> This project was launched in the academic year 2000/2001 at the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Prague 9 – Hrdlořezy.

<sup>232</sup> In 2002, the Police Academy of the Czech Republic continues its education activities in the form of technical seminars such as “*The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and Police Work*” (16 Jan 2002); “*Police and Human Rights*” (20 March 2002); “*Extremism*” (10 June 2002).

issues related to the usage of symbols of extremist movements and crime responsibility arising from their use remained basic teaching materials for extremist topics.<sup>233</sup>

## Co-operation of the Czech Police with Roma Advisors<sup>234</sup>

Collected findings show that in 2001 there was a shift in the problems perceived by the Roma community as a priority and that this was a shift in priority from security issues, towards social and economic problems. Currently, issues which came forward related to the disastrous unemployment rate, accompanied, according to Romas, by discrimination when applying for jobs, the adverse situation in accommodation, and a feeling of being “second rate citizens” in their own country. The security situation was generally perceived in 2001, in comparison with previous years, as more satisfactory. However, there were still locations where the security of Roma inhabitants was not good, according to the subjective view of a relevant Roma advisor.<sup>235</sup> In these areas co-operation with the Czech police is usually assessed as formal or contingent. However, according to the Czech police, Roma advisors do not always inform local police officials on their findings and do not initiate discussions with the aim of jointly achieving an improvement in the situation. The lasting distrust of Roma towards the Czech police led allegedly to cases where not all incidents of verbal or physical assaults were reported because Romas were concerned that the investigations of the Czech police and penal proceeding bodies would turn against the victims, and thus the victims would finally become offenders. In this context Roma advisors point out the need to employ Roma citizens as policemen since they will be able to bring the police nearer to Romas and make policemen more trustworthy.<sup>236</sup>

The level of co-operation of the Czech police, namely local specialists involved in the issues of extremism, with Roma advisors, was different. Roma advisors mostly positively evaluated this co-operation as being good. Such mutual co-operation took various forms. In some places it was regular (joint solutions of Roma community problems, information on actual cases and their solutions)<sup>237</sup>. In other locations mutual discussions were ad hoc (for

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<sup>233</sup> Colonel, JUDr. Jan Chmelik, *Extremismus (i.e. Extremism)*, Prague 1997 (1<sup>st</sup> edition), 2001 (2<sup>nd</sup> extended edition);

<sup>234</sup> Materials drawn up by Roma advisors assessing the level of security among Roma inhabitants and the level of co-operation with the Czech police were gathered by the Working Group of the Council of the Czech Government for Roma Community Affairs for Home Affairs and the Czech Police. Roma advisors from the below mentioned district contributed to the Report on the Issue of Extremism: Beroun, Rokycany (CB); Ceske Budejovice, Strakonice, Jindrichuv Hradec (SB); Pilsen-South, Karlovy Vary (WB); Jablonec n/Nisou, Teplice, Chomutov, Litomerice (NB); Pardubice, Trutnov, Jicin, Usti n/Orlici (EB); Prostějov, Znojmo (SM); Ostrava, Bruntal, Olomouc, Novy Jicin, Jeseník (NM). **The text takes into account the opinions of Roma advisors.**

<sup>235</sup> According to the subjective experiences and findings of a Roma advisor, Romas were assaulted and endangered for example in Krnov. Mainly Roma youth became a target. Mostly skinheads were involved in attacking Roma inhabitants, but citizens from the majority society participated in attacks as well. Attacks took place most often in streets, outside the city centre, but also in restaurants from which their owners made “clubs” to prevent Romas entering them. A similar situation is in the Jeseník District where, according to a Roma advisor, coexistence between the majority society and Roma minority is almost zero. The security of Romas living far from other people on the outskirts of villages where they are exposed to threats and assaults of skinheads remains a problem. The situation improved after J.T., a leading personality of skinheads in the Jeseník District, was imprisoned.

<sup>236</sup> An example of a Roma citizen working for the police, although for the municipal police, can be used to show a positive impact. As a Deputy Commander of the municipal police in Rokycany he enjoys authority within his own community and among the majority population.

<sup>237</sup> For example a Roma advisor from Jablonec nad Nisou mentioned a case of repeated violence against Romas in Plavy village. In solving this problem and in ensuring the security of these Romas in the future he co-operated with the Director of the District Department of the Czech Police. On the other hand, he mentioned, in connection

example information provided to a Roma advisor on risky meetings of extremist group supporters in a relevant district, solutions of an urgent problem). Representatives of Czech police were also involved in the work of various commissions working within the District Office. Their members were mainly people solving Roma issues.<sup>238</sup>

## **7.4 Activities of the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Prosecutor's Office**

### **The Ministry of Justice**

In 2001, 150 persons (in 2000 148 persons, in 1999 166 persons) were lawfully sentenced for crimes motivated by racial intolerance, which accounts for 0.25 % of the total number of 60,180 persons lawfully sentenced. Of the stated number 25 were juvenile offenders, which is almost 17 %, and 19 persons were repeated offenders. 20 women and 130 men were lawfully sentenced.

Most persons (39) were sentenced under Sections 260 or 261 of the Criminal Code – support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms; 36 persons under Section 198 or 198a of the Criminal Code – defamation of a nation, race or conviction or incitement of national and racial hatred; 34 persons for violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 of the Criminal Code; six persons under Sec. 221 of the Criminal Code - injury to health; nine persons under Sec. 222 of the Criminal Code - intentional severe injury to another person's health (compared with two persons in 2000); seven persons under Section 202– rowdyism (hooliganism); five persons under Section 235 – racially motivated extortion; four persons under Sec. 238 of the Criminal Code – violation of domestic freedom; two persons under Section 155 of the Criminal Code – assaults on a public official; and three persons under Sec. 247 of the Criminal Code - larceny. All crimes were racially motivated.

19 sentenced persons received sentences of imprisonment without a suspension (10.66%), 115 sentenced persons received sentences of imprisonment with a suspension (76.66%), 14 offenders were sentenced to beneficial public work (9.33%), and seven persons were imposed a financial fine upon as a primary or secondary punishment (4.66%).

Within its activities, the Ministry of Justice took into account Government Resolutions No. 720/1999, No. 498/2001, and No. 903/2001.

### **Examination of Crimes Having Extremist or Racist Nature<sup>239</sup>**

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with the same case, his negative experiences with the Local Department of the Czech police in Tanvald. It demonstrated, *inter alia*, that the level and quality of co-operation of the Czech police with a Roma advisor could be impacted by any serious case if this happened in this territory. After Romas were attacked in Ceske Budejovice (20 November 2000, hotel Modra hvězda = Blue Star) the relations of a Roma advisor have improved according to the Roma advisor himself, and now they are intensively co-operating and monitoring the situation in the city .

<sup>238</sup> For example in Olomouc or Znojmo representatives of the District Directorate of the Czech police and municipal police are regular members of the Advisory Committee of the Head of the District Office for integration of Roma community and other ethnic groups. A district Roma advisor regularly meets, on this platform, with a police expert in the field of extremism. In the Louny District such co-operation is executed within the Advisory Body for the integration of foreigners.

<sup>239</sup> **The assignment contained in the item 7 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 720/1999 was being fulfilled on an ongoing basis. The Government instructed the Minister of Justice to "constantly monitor the speed and smoothness of court proceedings related to the crimes of extremist nature, and**

During January 2002 the Chairmen of all District and Regional Courts in the Czech Republic, along with the Department of Organisation and Supervision of the Ministry of Justice, examined 177 criminal cases with extremist or racial motives. The Chairmen of District and Regional Courts assessed the speed and smoothness of proceedings in cases having a racial context positively, and stated that unsubstantiated delays had occurred in only a small amount of cases. The speed and smoothness of these cases did not differ from the speed and smoothness of other cases when an offender had not been taken into custody. The average length of trials was 10.6 months and provided that an offender(s) had been taken into custody the length shortened to 4 months. Delays usually had objective reasons such as difficulties related to serving a summons on a witness, victims or the accused, frequent excuses of attorneys and experts, the complexity of a case especially in the event of crimes committed by a group of persons, and so forth. However, from 1 January 2002 the Minister of Justice has not been able to file a complaint for violation of law to the detriment of the accused and to achieve a cancellation or alteration of an unlawful decision in cases having an extremist context. He/she cannot do that, on the basis of a decision taken by the Constitutional Court on 31 October 2001 which repealed provisions of Sec. 272 a Sec. 276, the fourth sentence, of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 424/2001 Coll.). However, it is still applicable that a complaint of violation of law other than in favour of the accused may be filed but that on its basis it is not possible to cancel the decisions against which the complained was filed. Thus only a so-called academic statement determining the fact that the law has been violated can be used. Therefore a complaint of violation of the law to the detriment of the accused can be filed only to call essential judicature. On the other hand, the amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (amended by Act No 265/2001 Coll. effective from 1 January 2002) stipulated two new considerable powers for state prosecutors. It introduced (in Sec. 265a and following of the Code of Cr. Procedure) the institution of admissibility of recourse enabling the Chief State Prosecutor to challenge a legitimate decision of a court both in favour or to the detriment of the accused. It also enables the Chief State Prosecutor (in provisions of Sec. 174a of the Code of Cr. Procedure) to cancel, within a period of two months, unlawful decisions made by lower-ranked state prosecutors concerning a discontinuation of prosecution or transfer of action.

### **Projects in the Field of Education or Social Work Aimed at Social Groups from Which Offenders of Racial Crimes Are Mostly Recruited<sup>240</sup>**

Possibilities of implementing such projects within the Ministry of Justice are limited. It is obvious that the Ministry of Justice as a judicial body of state administration can operate in this area only with difficulty and thus the centre of such work is in the field of education (schools) and social affairs. However, the Ministry can offer assistance while implementing particular projects, which was done during the amendment procedure related to the “Draft Strategy of Educational Activities Aimed at Combating Extremism” drawn up by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. In particular it was an offer to participate in implementing two out of four principal training programmes: to assist with training courses for the staff of the Czech School Inspection aimed at providing information on new legislative regulations, and to help with courses for trainers who should train teachers in the area of human rights,

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**provided that the inspection finds more serious failure, to take into account the option of using an extraordinary remedy – a complaint of violation of the law”. This is a permanent assignment.**

<sup>240</sup> In compliance with Government Resolution No. 498 from 21 May 2002 the Minister of Justice was required to “**to develop and implement, on an ongoing basis, educational and social work projects aimed at social groups from which most of offenders of racial crimes come (in particular apprentices, people in regions with a high unemployment rate and a high percentage of Roma population, etc.)**”

legal issues and problems related to extremism. The latter course should encompass a so-called “experience course” focused on practical tolerance.

As for training programmes held within the Ministry of Justice, the Educational Institution of the Ministry of Justice included the issues of combating extremism and racism in the regular schedule of central educational programmes issues related to combating extremism and racism. In the second half of 2001, the Institute organised for judges, state prosecutors and staff of probationary services a special seminar dealing with extremism.

### **The Concept of Probationary and Mediation Services in the Framework of the Struggle Against Extremism<sup>241</sup>**

On 1 January 2002, on the basis of Act No. 257/2000 Coll. on Probationary and Mediation Services, a new judiciary service was established. The centres of probationary and mediation services established in the whole country carry out probation and mediation in penal proceedings. Probationary service officials and their assistants organise and supervise accused or sentenced persons (hereinafter “the accused”), they check the execution of punishment other than imprisonment, including imposed duties and limitations, and they monitor the behaviour of the accused during the probationary period when they are paroled. At the same time they help their clients to persevere in a crime-free life, and to conform to imposed conditions so that broken legal and social relations can be recovered. Within mediation services such officials and assistants try to intermediate out-of-court solutions of disputes between accused and aggrieved parties and out-of-court settlements and the removal of conflict situations.

Assignments and measures arising from this concept:

- informative and analytical activities – individual centres of Probationary and Mediation Services (hereinafter “PMS”) map the situation in regions they are responsible for and the Headquarters of PMS submit to the Ministry an analysis of the occurrence and distribution of criminal offences related to extremism; such an analysis is developed with the help of departmental statistics and materials prepared by the Institution for Criminology and Social Prevention;
- co-ordination activities – on the basis of surveys carried out by all centres, the Headquarters of PMS develop an overview of possible partnerships and co-operating organisations in all locations and submit this overview, through the Ministry of Justice, to penal proceeding bodies;
- generally beneficial work – on the basis of an analysis of current practice or using foreign experience, the central PMS drafts and submits for the requirement of the judiciary (judges), a list of the types of beneficial work which can be successfully applied to the target group of offenders who have committed crimes related to extremism;
- limitations and duties imposed by a court - PMS will similarly analyse how imposed limitations and duties are acquitted in practice, including suggestions and their future clarification or extension in terms of better co-operation with the family and social environment of an offender;
- creating and implementing probationary programmes – the Headquarters of PMS draw up a model project and suggest a specific probationary programme for offenders who have committed criminal offences related to extremism, racism and xenophobia;

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<sup>241</sup> The assignment contained in item 8 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903/2001 was fulfilled by drawing up the “Draft Concept of Mediation and Probationary Activities Aimed At Combating Extremism”. At the meeting held on 16 January 2002 the Government took note of this document under point 6 of the Agenda 6. See Minutes from the Government Meeting, 16 Jan 2001, Ref. No.220502.

- mediation between accused and aggrieved parties – application of this approach assumes activities particularly on the side of the accused, an offender – his/her interest and motivation in responsibility for a crime and willingness to solve its material and psychological consequences; if an official of PMS does not manage to motivate an offender towards this attitude then it does not make any sense to create further conditions for out-of-court settlement of a conflict and the case must be solved through standard court proceedings;
- further growth in the qualification of PMS staff – within the system of life-long education of the Ministry of Justice's staff, the Ministry will care for officials and assistants of PMS to regularly receive qualified and updated information on the issue of extremism, racism, and xenophobia.

## **The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office**

In 2001, in comparison with 2000, the total number of prosecuted people for crimes of national, racial and other hatred moderately declined, while the number of people charged with such crimes decreased markedly. The number of prosecuted and charged increased only in crimes of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Sec. 261 of the Criminal Code. The same applies to crimes of injury to health pursuant to Sec. 221(1) (2) (b) of the Criminal Code. The number of prosecuted and charged in relation to all other crimes considerably decreased, for example the fall in crimes of violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 (3) of the Criminal Code is substantial. One person was prosecuted and sued for a crime under Sec. 261a of the Criminal Code newly regulated by the amendment to Act No. 405/2000 Coll.

In 2001 as in the preceding year, crimes of national, racial or any other hatred were distributed in different regions unequally. The Regional State Prosecutor's Office in Ostrava had the highest number of cases. In 2001, 188 persons were prosecuted and 170 were sued, which accounted for a 35.5 % share in a total number of sued persons, which means a considerable growth – by 60.7% or 68.3% respectively - compared to 2000. Ostrava was followed by the capital city of Prague where the number of prosecuted persons reached 83 and sued persons 75, which accounts for 15.7% or 16.5% respectively. Compared to 2000 it was a decline by 14.4%, and 18.7%. The lowest number of the crimes of this type is reported from the Regional State Prosecutor's Office in Ceske Budejovice, where, in 2001, only 12 persons were prosecuted and ten persons sued which represent a minimum share. A share of all crimes of national, racial and other hatred in the total number of crimes has remained quite low and has been far from reaching 1%.<sup>242</sup>

In terms of the composition of crimes, the majority of crimes monitored were committed by juveniles or persons who had just reached adulthood, almost exclusively by members of the skinhead movement when verbal or physical attacks were directed towards Romas equal in age. Those persons have very often been repeat offenders. In other cases there were predominantly verbal attacks having a nature of situational conflict between persons from the majority society who had never been sentenced, and Roma on the other side. These conflicts were often provoked or affected by the previous behaviour of victims, however the attacks were not aimed at the subject of such conflict but against the ethnic membership of the

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<sup>242</sup> The decline in the number of prosecuted and sued crimes is, in some locations, affected by the higher attention the police pay to this type of crime. The police anticipate risky events such as assemblies, sports matches and similar events, and monitor them in full detail with the aim of preventing these crimes or detecting offenders in time.

victims. Exceptionally, there have also been attacks having a racial context, by Roma directed towards members of the majority society.

The data available to the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office shows that **promptness in proceedings related to crimes committed by national, racial or other similar hatred has been better than in proceedings relating to other kinds of crime.**

In punishing the above-mentioned kinds of crimes the state prosecutors continued to follow the general instruction of the Chief State Prosecutor No. 3/1995, which assigned state prosecutor’s offices at lower levels with some special duties relating to crimes committed as a result of national or racial hatred or offences aimed against other citizens because of their political or religious conviction.<sup>243</sup> State prosecutors paid a higher attention to this kind of crime at the level of District State Prosecutor’s Offices as well as at the level of Regional State Prosecutor’s Offices, which supervise the work of state prosecutor’s offices at the lower levels.

This kind of crime is very difficult to prove since it is not easy to find offenders of such a crime and it is a problem to find witnesses. Problems with the victims, even during pre-trial proceedings, are also very frequent. The aggrieved parties sometimes do not respond to a summons to come for a hearing, which, of course, affects the promptness of pre-trial proceedings. Moreover the aggrieved often protest, without any substantive reasons, that penal proceeding bodies are biased against them. Difficulty in gathering evidence is because of the fact that witnesses mostly come from two “camps” and unbiased witnesses do not want to testify or just do not exist.

<b>Overview of Persons Prosecuted and Charged for Crimes Motivated by Racial, National or Similar Hatred<sup>244</sup></b>												
CR	Sec. 196/2		Sec. 196/3		Sec. 198		Sec. 198a		Sec. 219/2g		Sec. 221/2b	
	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued
1989					44	25						
1990					14	1						
1991					6	4	0	0				
1992					1	1	1	0			3	2
1993					15	9	8	4			1	0

<sup>243</sup> This Instruction regulates the procedures for punishment of xenophobic (apolitical) extremist action which includes attacks with a social, ethnic, or racial motivation, as well as political extremism, which includes attempts at the complete change of the social and political system. It is necessary to stress that the requirements stated in this general Instruction are met by state prosecutors on an ongoing basis. The state prosecutor’s offices at lower levels pay higher attention to crimes motivated by national and racial intolerance and especially try to find out whether such criminal cases were, in terms of legal classification, assessed in a relevant manner and whether all steps necessary to clarify the offender’s motives have been taken.

<sup>244</sup> Statistics of the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office as well as court statistics differ from police statistics with respect to the time period during which a crime is reported. Decisive is not the time when a crime was committed but the time when a state prosecutor prepared a criminal charge, decided about its discontinuation, and so forth. Therefore the statistics above contain neither the racially motivated murder nor a racially motivated homicidal, which will be reported in statistics for 2002, since it is the year when a state prosecutor brought charges.

1994					40	36	13	12			3	3
1995	177	162	18	17	112	108	28	22	0	0	13	12
1996	210	179	18	17	74	66	30	29	1	1	90	82
1997	150	119	29	19	107	103	25	20	0	0	56	55
1998	126	111	3	0	124	90	7	6	3	2	40	36
1999	139	123	24	24	103	91	12	11	2	2	42	42
2000	98	84	24	24	150	129	19	14	0	0	22	13
2001	95	92	0	0	127	118	19	16	0	0	28	27
+ - 2000	-3.1%	9.5%	-100%	-100%	-15.3%	-8.5%	0%	14.3%	-	-	27.3%	107.7%

CR	Sec. 222/2b		Sec. 235/2f		Sec. 257/2b		Sec. 260		Sec. 261	
	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	Prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued	prosec.	sued
1989							6	4	33	30
1990							3	1	7	2
1991							1	0	3	1
1992	0	0					2	0	14	12
1993	3	1					8	5	11	6
1994	13	12					34	32	13	13
1995	23	23	0	0	6	5	13	11	118	101
1996	42	41	1	1	27	25	30	27	93	84
1997	45	43	5	5	18	15	29	18	105	98
1998	28	28	6	6	16	16	27	15	155	129
1999	30	28	1	0	16	16	52	37	159	136
2000	12	12	0	0	7	6	79	67	124	102
2001	6	6	3	3	2	2	51	41	198	164
+ - 2000	-50.0%	-50.0%	-	-	-71.4%	-66.7%	-35.4%	-38.8%	59.7%	60.8%

## 7.5 Activities of the Ministry of Defence

### Protection of Human Rights and Control of Such Protection

Although the Chief Inspector for Human Rights Protection within the Ministry of Defence examined in 2001 several tens of complaints and petitions, none of them related to issues of racism, racial discrimination, or xenophobia.

Within controlling the observation of human rights, inspection teams paid in 2001 considerable attention to occurrence of racial discrimination and violations of human rights and freedom. No problems related to the observation of human rights were detected during the course of the inspection check-ups carried out by authorised staff and by the Chief Inspector for Human Rights Protection.

During the course of 2001, all methods possible were used for eliminating any pathological social phenomena occurring within the Ministry and entities under its responsibility. There were enormous efforts to unify all organisational units of the Ministry of Defence and the Czech army in their approach towards pathological social phenomena, with a

stress put on improving the work of all entities which deal with such phenomena within the Ministry.

With regards to legislation, the amendment to the Basic Order of Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, which came into effect on 1 December 2001, enables a soldier to directly contact the Chief Inspector for Human Rights Protection within the Ministry of Defence with a complaint concerning a serious violence of human rights.<sup>245</sup>

## **Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena in the Army**

In 2001, as in 2000, problems resulting from racism, xenophobia or extremism occurred very rarely within the Ministry of Defence. Considerable attention corresponding to the dangers involved was paid to prevent such negative social phenomena.

The main objective of prevention of pathological social phenomena is to prevent within the Ministry of Defence a rise of phenomena endangering not only individuals but also the assets of military administration and the readiness for action of the Czech army. Thus the aim was to create favourable conditions for a healthy –life-style for active soldiers and students of Military Academies, a part of which is the rejection of bullying, racism, xenophobia, criminal offences, and the abuse of alcohol and drugs. The assignments contained in the “Strategy and Programme to Prevent Pathological Social Phenomena” were met in 2001 on an ongoing basis. With regard to possible extremism in the Czech army, the national servicemen represent its principal source since they bring their view from a civilian environment. The Military Police, along with commanding bodies, organised for the national servicemen a range of lectures and discussions especially in training centres for new-comers at the beginning of each training term.

Topics of racism, xenophobia, and extremism are included in all forms of military education in compliance with the Order of the Minister of Defence “Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Addiction and Other Pathological Social Phenomena”. This topic was included and taught within various activities carried out by national servicemen and forms also a part of curricula at schools for lower-ranked officers where soldiers in basic service are prepared for commanding posts. Future commanders are informed on the danger of individual pathological social phenomena and thus they can react to their actual manifestations. These topics were also included in two-week courses in the prevention of pathological social phenomena for commanders of troops, companies, air squadrons, and batteries. These courses were organised centrally. Commanders and teachers at military schools as well as soldiers leaving for international military missions underwent similar courses.

The topic of prevention of pathological social phenomena, including the prevention of racism and xenophobia, is included in the Organisational and Methodological Instructions for Military Academies. The students of secondary schools as well as Academies are informed about these problems in humanities and they have also special lectures related to this topic.

Within their preparation for commanding posts, professional soldiers are every year informed on current problems related to pathological social phenomena. Special attention is devoted to the issues of nationalism, anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia in training courses for professional soldiers who leave for international military missions.

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<sup>245</sup> Article 18 of the Basic Order of Armed Forces of the Czech Republic stipulates: “A soldier can submit a complaint containing data on a serious violation of human rights and freedoms for example information on racial and other discrimination, torture, inhuman or humiliating treatment or punishment, directly to the Chief Inspector for Human Rights Protection within the Ministry of Defence.”

The Ministry of Defence is convinced that to prevent pathological social phenomena it is very important to prepare a wide range of sports and cultural activities for soldiers' spare time and to organise consultation services.

## **Activities of the Military Police in 2001**

In 2001 there were regular co-operative meetings concerning extremist issues with the experts of the Criminal Bureau of the Police Presidency of the Czech Republic (now Criminal and Investigation Bureau) at the level of Chief Command of the Military Police. Individual regional commands of the Military Police closely co-operated with police criminal service experts (at regional and district levels) while solving actual issues related to extremism. Within such collaboration they exchanged information and also set up criteria for solving crimes with an extremist context committed in some units under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence.

In 2001, the police units working within the Military Police investigated altogether 4,589 cases where suspicion of crime was well founded (in 2000 – 5,062 cases). Out of this number only six cases (the same number as in 2000) were examined as crimes with racial or xenophobic motives. In all these cases the Military Police investigated offenders' conduct under Sections 260 and 260 of the Criminal Code – support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms (one case also under Sec. 198 of the Criminal Code - defamation of a nation, race or conviction; one case under Sec. 277 of the Cr. Code -insults between soldiers; and one case under Sec. 273 of the Criminal Code - disobedience).

Offenders committed unlawful conduct in one case by crying out fascist and racist slogans and using the Nazi greetings “Sieg Heil” and “Heil Hitler” in public; in two cases by projecting video cassettes and reproducing audio recordings with racist and nationalistic texts in barracks, and in one case a dark skinned soldier was physically assaulted and was threatened with murder and racially verbally abused. In two cases the military police seized materials promoting Nazism and racism, and in one case an offender was found to have fascist symbols tattooed on his body.

Five national servicemen (in 2000, ten national servicemen and two juvenile civilian persons) were suspected of committing racially motivated crimes. All cases were submitted to the relevant investigator of the Czech police, with a motion to commence criminal prosecution.

**Neither the military police nor the Military Intelligence Services, during the period monitored, detected the existence of or activities carried out by extremist groups in the Czech army's units and regiments.**

## **7.6 Activities of the Ministry of Culture**

The role of the Ministry of Culture was mainly of a preventative function aimed at the elimination of negative social phenomena. The culture of national minority members is understood as an integral part of the national culture. By penetrating one another these cultures are mutually enriched, known and understood, which can lead to a reduction in xenophobic and racist attitudes and activities. Therefore, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic pays attention not only to supporting the cultural events of national minorities, but also to supporting events affecting the majority society. The approach of the Ministry of Culture towards members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic is expressed in the document “Concept of Cultural Policy in the Czech Republic – Strategy of More Effective

Public Support of Culture”, approved by Government Resolution No. 40 dated 10 January 2001. The Ministry of Culture conceives of a culture of national minorities comprehensively, taking into account all its specific features including a Roma ethnic culture. Within the Programme of Development and Preservation of National Minority Culture the Roma national minority was neither and is neither considerably preferred, nor suppressed. It has an equal position next to other national minorities living in the Czech Republic as is laid down by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms<sup>246</sup>

Starting in the year 2001 the Ministry of Culture announced a grant programme for supporting the integration of foreigners living in the Czech Republic.<sup>247</sup> Various types of cultural and cultural-educational activities, as well as activities focusing on religion, are supported within this programme. Such projects could involve artistic activities, educational or training activities in various cultural fields, research into national culture and folk traditions of the national minority, documentation of national culture, publication activities, or multi-ethnic cultural events. Projects are not only for foreigners themselves, but also for the majority society, because it can be assumed that an extended knowledge of the cultures of other ethnic groups and an approximation of their differences can help to break prejudice and to overcome xenophobic and racist attitudes.

In 2001 the Ministry of Culture implemented projects of varying content and extent within this programme.<sup>248</sup> With regard to stressing the prevention of racism and xenophobia especially a project of the League of Ethnic Minorities “*Coexistence*”, the content of which is a media campaign against racism should be mentioned.<sup>249</sup>

The Ministry of Culture intends to continue to invite organisations to participate in this grant programme in the future and it considers beneficial the provision of state subsidies mainly for:<sup>250</sup>

- projects of a multi-ethnic nature aimed at a mutual recognition between foreigners and the majority society, with a special emphasis put on projects for children and youth;
- projects targeting populations of regions where problems relating to accepting foreigners and ethnic groups are reported (manifestations of racism and xenophobia),
- projects which are implemented by foreigners and target groups themselves, and besides these communities, also by members of the majority society since it is very positive for the

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<sup>246</sup> In light of the fact that information on cultural activities of national minority members living in the Czech Republic is contained in a number of reports relating directly to the issue in question (e.g. The Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001, information on meeting Government Resolution concerning integration of Roma communities), detailed data is not reported here. With respect to the focus of the Report on the Issues of Extremism it would be only selective information which would not provide a comprehensive picture of broad activities of the Ministry of Culture in this field..

<sup>247</sup> The Grant Programme is announced in accordance with Government Resolution No. 1266 dated 11 December 2000 on the implementation of the Principles of the Concept of Integration Foreigners Living in the Czech Republic and Government Resolution No. 40 from 10 January 2001 concerning the Updated Strategy of More Effective State Support Of Culture (Cultural Policy)

<sup>248</sup> The activities were as follows: films made, discussions, lectures and a seminar held, monitoring press with the aim of finding references of foreigners in the Czech Republic, an exhibition of photographs.

<sup>249</sup> Other significant projects were for example cycles of lectures held by the Multicultural Centre in Prague which organised other multicultural actions as well. There were also projects organised by the Advice Centre for Integration of Foreigners (Introduction of cultures of ethnic communities living in Usti nad Labem and in Brno and the Multicultural Festival “Coloured Planet” held in Usti nad Labem or a project of the Cultural and Religious Centre for Migrants and Refugees), or a project organised by the civic association SOZE (Association of Citizens Dealing with Immigrants)

<sup>250</sup> See Government Resolution No. 1360 dated 19 December 2001 concerning “Information on Experiences from Implementing the Integration of Foreigners in the Czech Republic” containing, *inter alia*, plans of individual ministries in the field of foreigner integration.

majority society to become acquainted with a minority culture through its own representatives.

## **Legislative activities**

In 2001 a new Act on Freedom of Religious Conviction and the Position of Churches and Religious Societies was adopted (the Act on Churches and Religious Societies) and published in the Collection of Laws under No. 3/2002 Coll.. This Act came into force on 7 January 2002. This Act liberalised the manner in which churches and religious societies with a low number of believers could become legal entities. Simultaneously, Sec. 5 of this Act lays down conditions limiting the powers of churches and religious societies, the aim of which is to prevent the registration of dangerous religious sects which utilise methods of affecting and manipulating people, especially juveniles. These conditions were also specified for churches and civic societies which are not registered, since those who are involved in illicit activities have an individual criminal liability. The same provision applies to extremist groups which are established and carry out activities for other than religious reasons.

## **Churches and Religious Societies**

In 2001 as in the previous year, the Ministry of Culture did not meet: with regard to the area under its responsibility, i.e. within the registered churches and religious societies or registered religious legal entities any manifestations of extremism which could be marked as misdemeanours or crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia or religious intolerance. In 2001 there were no applications for the registration of any religious societies which the Ministry of the Interior as a registering body was obliged to assess in terms of aspects which are subject to governmental measures dealing with the issues of extremism.

## **Mass Media**

At the beginning of 2001 the amendment to Act No. 483/1991 Coll., on Czech Television, was adopted. The definition of the term “public service” in Sec. 2 (2) of the Act determines that Czech Television participates in combating extremism by providing objective information and a balanced range of programmes for all groups of inhabitants, so that programmes reflect the variety of a plural society and at the same time strengthen mutual understanding, tolerance and coherence. In spring 2001 the Czech Parliament also passed Act No. 231/2001 Coll., on Operating Radio and Television Broadcasting. The proposal for this underwent a long process of negotiations and its final version is based on the draft drawn up in the Chamber of Deputies. Despite the fact that the Ministry of Culture and a number of experts did not agree with some of its provisions it is essential that this act was adopted with the principal view of harmonising Czech legislation with EU law. This Act also defines the rights and duties of broadcasting operators and re-broadcasting operators. Czech Television as a public legal entity, as well as other broadcasting operators, are obliged to provide objective information and a balanced range of programmes for all population groups. Under Sec. 32(1) (a) of this Act an operator is responsible for the content of programmes; (b) is obliged to ensure that broadcasted programmes do not promote any war and do not depict cruel or otherwise inhuman conduct in such a manner that would make light of such things, or excuse or approve them; (c) is obliged to ensure that broadcasted programmes do not incite

hate because of race, sex, religion, nationality, or membership of a certain group of the population. The operator of re-broadcasting is not entitled to broadcast such a programme. This Act also regulates the protection of persons affected by such radio or television broadcasting – “the right to reply” and “additional information”. Certain limitations in terms of content applies also to the broadcasting of commercials and teleshopping. Operators are not allowed to broadcast commercials or teleshopping programmes which support conduct which would endanger morals, decrease respect for human dignity, or to broadcast religious or atheist commercials or teleshopping shots, or advertisements for various political parties and movements or commercials of independent candidates unless a special Act states otherwise.

## **7.7 Activities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

The activities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (hereinafter the MLSA) in the field of preventing and combating extremism in the Czech Republic were based on the relevant Government Resolutions, and assignments arising from such resolutions. Government Resolution No. 498/2001 requires the MLSA to implement, on an ongoing basis, projects in the field of education and social work focused on the social groups from which offenders of racial criminal offences originate. Government Resolution No. 903/2001 requires that the Draft Strategy of Social Work Aimed At Preventing and Combating Extremism be submitted to the Government. In 2001 the MLSA continued previously launched projects tackling the aforementioned areas.

### **Methodological Guidance of Social Workers – Social Assistants, Social Curators, Curators for Youth**

In 2001, established working groups of social workers met regularly. The representatives of individual groups were selected from newly established regions and their task was to mainly ensure the smooth transfer of methodological activities from the MLSA to the level of the regions. The objective of such an activity was to prepare the conditions for the gradual transfer of all methodological tasks to Regional Councils and to facilitate this transformation so that their continuity after 1 January 2003 is kept. Working groups were provided with, for their future use, the results of a pilot project of a systematic approach to juvenile and child offenders of crimes for which they would be punished if they were not under the age of criminal liability - “Prompt Intervention Centre” - which was, with the support of the MLSA and the Ministry of the Interior, implemented in Ostrava. This model can be used also for work with juvenile offenders who commit crimes with an extremist context.

### **“Prompt Intervention Centre” Project in Ostrava**

This project is based on Government Resolution No. 1032 dated 6 October 1999. During the course of 2001 the MLSA, in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, facilitated methodological support for the Prompt Prevention Centre and supported an education programme for curators and youth which is an integral part of the whole project. The Prompt Intervention Centre is a professional facility which maps, co-ordinates, provides methodological guidance for and supervises the work of all entities actively involved in the

system of care for juvenile offenders. In 2001, seminars, providing detail information on individual cases and establishing common grounds for the activities of curators for youth, probationary officials and providers of social services, were further developed and put into practice. The objective of this co-operation is to create a system focusing not only on the offender, but also the aggrieved parties, and restituting the problems an offender has caused by his/her conduct. In 2001, altogether 100 lessons and 4 one-day observations were held. Experience gathered from the implementation of the programme could be now used for the drawing up similar programmes for other types of social workers. A model for a pilot educational programme is compared with a system of social worker education which is being prepared, so that it can become, in the future, one of the programmes of long-life education of social workers which should increase their professional competency. The mentioned experience was then drawn into one of measures contained in the Strategy of Social Work Aimed At Preventing and Combating Extremism.

## **Strategy of Social Work Aimed At Preventing and Combating Extremism<sup>251</sup>**

The first part of the document defines the term “extremism”, defines the mission and objectives of social work and social services in the field monitored, deals with the role of a social worker, and describes the situation of extremism in the Czech Republic in 2000.<sup>252</sup> The part titled “Measures” describes in full detail four proposals for actual activities. The Strategy puts its principal emphasis on prevention – targeted influences are those of children and juveniles for whom accepting offers of extremist movements seems to be an alluring way out of their life or social situation. A high significance is given to the methodological guidance of social workers and to co-operation with other institutions, especially with probationary and mediation services and penal proceeding bodies, but also with educational facilities, providers of social services, Roma co-ordinators and advisors and the National Committee for Crime Prevention

## **7.8 Activities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**

### **Teaching Materials (Documents) for Primary and Secondary Schools**

Education towards tolerance and in prevention of extremist opinions and attitudes is an integral part of the school subject civics (or education towards “citizenship”) at primary schools and in the lower grades of 7 or 8 year grammar schools. Education against of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, and extremism, one of the key objectives of civics lessons is expressed in teaching materials for primary schools and lower grades of 7 or 8 year grammar school. The concept of education towards “citizenship” is primarily aimed at education in tolerance and esteem for different views, attitudes, and habits as well as in prevention of

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<sup>251</sup> **The task contained in point 7 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 dated 12 September 2001 was completed by elaborating the Strategy of Social Work Aimed At Preventing and Combating Extremism. The Government approved this document by its Resolution No. 169 dated 20 February 2002.**

<sup>252</sup> This part is based on documents drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior, namely the Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2000 (approved by Government Resolution No. 903/2001) and the Analysis of Regions (Locations) Mostly Affected by Crime with an Extremist Context, of which the members of the Government took note on 19 April 2000

racial, xenophobic, and extremist attitudes. This concept fully supports the long-term strategy of legal and ethical education in primary schools and grammar schools. The current conception of the civics syllabus also reflects the Methodological Instruction of the MEYS Towards Education Against Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance (Bulletin of the MEYS, volume LV, book 5, May 1999, p. 15, ref. no. 14 423/99-22, approved on 23 March 1999).

New educational programmes for primary and general secondary education which are currently being prepared also pay greater attention to the above-mentioned issues (see the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education and the Framework Educational Programme for Grammar Schools).

Education against racism, xenophobia, intolerance, and extremism is realised through lessons in schools and through various activities organised by schools in pupils' spare time. Significant factors are the overall atmosphere at school, the level of interpersonal relations, and the stimulatory impact of the educational environment.

An analysis of topics related to the issue of extremism used in primary schools is based on the following documents:

1. Educational Programme – Primary School – civics - topics such as *Global problems of mankind* and *A human being and human rights*.
2. Educational Programme - Elementary School - topics – *A man seeking partnership, A human being and the responsibilities of coexistence*, and *Education towards democracy*.
3. Educational Programme - National School - topic – *Rights and duties of citizens*
4. Syllabus for lower grades of 7 or 8 year grammar schools - topics – *A life in a society, Problems of the planet, Human rights and other topics*.
5. Framework educational programme for primary and secondary education - topics – *Man in society, Management of society, Rights and justice, Global world, Education of a democratic citizen, Education towards personal and social development, Inter-cultural education and Education towards thinking with European and global coherence*.

In the teaching materials that are used in the field of technical education, the issue of the role of education in eliminating the influences of extremism is included in general educational subjects such as history and civics, and in some educational programmes it forms a part of technical subjects, e.g. Multicultural coexistence.

The Framework Educational Programme for Secondary Technical Education (its general part is determined for all types of education) contains the compulsory summary topic “*A citizen in a democratic society*” which, within the framework of the whole curriculum, has a considerable part to play in strengthening education towards democracy and thus multicultural coexistence, and contributes to the elimination of extremism.

The National Institute of Technical Education has drawn up two projects for the further education of pedagogical staff and at the moment is drawing up a third programme – Media Education Within Secondary Technical Education, Multicultural Education in Secondary Technical Schools, and Educational Activities Against Extremism of Youth in Technical Education.

Media, in particular the Internet (information, calling rallies and other events, Nazi, neo-Nazi and nationalist propaganda, etc.), audio-cassettes and CDs (music recordings with racist, anti-Semitic and other similar texts) have an important place.

Issues concerning human rights are taken into account in several fundamental conceptual or strategic documents of the Ministry of Education: the National Programme of Education Development in the Czech Republic (so called White Paper) respects the principle of removal of all forms of discrimination. Another document is the Concept of State Policy in Relation to the Younger Generation Until 2002, approved by the Czech Government on 6 January 1999. This document contains assignments also to be met by other ministries. The MEYS, on the basis of Government Resolution No. 1351 dated 22 December 1999 concerning the plan of

non-legislative work for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2000, on 10 May 2000 submitted to the Government a Report on Meeting Assignments Arising from the Concept of State Policy in Relation to the Younger Generation Until 2002. The government took note of this Concept in its Resolution No. 459/2000.

By instruction of the Minister of Education No. 20/1999 the Minister's Advisory Group for the Multinational Education was established. This group comprises representatives of minorities living in the Czech Republic, representatives of state administration bodies and representatives of civic initiatives (for example the Association of Municipalities with Asylum Facilities) and representatives of the Jewish community.

The Ministry determines, on an ongoing basis, education of foreigners and in compliance with legal regulations issued the following instructions:

- Methodological instruction on the obligatory school attendance of asylum seekers' children. The objective of this Instruction is to ensure better conditions for the work of teachers at schools attended by asylum seekers' children living in asylum facilities.
- Methodological instruction to the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports on ensuring Czech language courses for asylum seekers. This Instruction specifies organisational changes in the implementation of such courses, an increase in the number of hours, and the overall improvement of the courses.
- Methodological instruction to the MEYS on the education of foreigners at primary and secondary schools, schools for secondary school leavers who do not study at universities, as well as special schools. This Instruction simplified access by foreigners to education, mainly at secondary schools, and established conditions for eliminating some strict provisions of the previous instruction.

On the basis of Ministry's requirement, the Czech School Inspection carried out general observations focused on the education of foreigners in primary schools and devised a methodology on the monitoring of this issue. At the same time it continues to monitor this issue in a number of schools within general teaching observations.

To co-ordinate the issue of foreigners' education the working group consisting of representatives of MEYS' involved departments, the Czech School Inspection, and the Pedagogic and Psychological Advisory Institute was established at the Ministry under the responsibility of the Vice-Minister for Regional Education.

Another step was an invitation to participate in 2001 projects devised to support the integration of foreigners living in the Czech Republic. In its Resolution No. 1266 the Czech Government agreed to subsidise such projects by an amount of CZK 2,500,000 from the state budget chapter General Cash Management. The project topics are as follows:

1. Projects to support the multicultural education of children and youth
2. Projects to support teaching of the Czech language as a foreign language.
3. Studies focused on the issues of education of migrants.

The meeting of the top representatives of the Ministry discussed and approved on 27 February 2001 the document Contribution of Education to the Concept of Integration of Foreigners.

## **The Strategy Aimed At Improving the Education of Roma Children**

The existence of this document can be described as extraordinarily favourable and important. The clearly declared will of the Government was demonstrated by the establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission for Roma Community Affairs and a number of Government Resolutions supporting minority rights, and an especially strong

emancipation movement inside the Roma community created preconditions for a gradual, yet permanent, improvement in the overall situation of education for Roma children.

Basic lines of strategy:

- To support Roma education at all levels, even after they finish compulsory school attendance, with the aim of improving their options to find a job.
- Through better education to increase their rate of employment, and thus also social position.
- To help develop Roma culture and traditions.
- To support the gradual direction of society in the Czech Republic towards a diversified ethnic and single civic society

Basic areas of Roma education:

- pre-school education and preparation for the successful beginning of compulsory school attendance;
- voluntary lessons of the Roma language, history, and culture for Roma children and other interested pupils;
- support within all attendance at school;
- vocational counselling;
- support of secondary school students during their studies and when preparing for employment;
- support in the effective spending of spare time;
- dissemination of information about Romas;
- education towards tolerance and elimination of prejudice of all children
- support of the inclusion of multicultural education university as well as the further education of teachers

## **Strategy Towards Education of Human Rights and Tolerance, With an Emphasis on Practical Application**

Basic lines of strategy:

- Education towards tolerance as a fundamental communication strategy among people.
- Strengthening education in the field of legal knowledge and its application in practical life.
- Strengthening education in curricula for primary schools and for secondary technical schools and apprentice centres in the field of communication and prevention of conflicts – racism, xenophobia, and extremism.
- Utilising the specific features of a region for education towards tolerance in relation to a particular ethnic groups.
- Support of the teaching of minority languages, particularly in the areas where such minorities live.
- Support of alternative educational projects of universities focusing on human rights.
- Support of the inclusion of multicultural education in programmes for the further education of teachers.
- Support of civic associations of teachers in programmes aimed at human rights and tolerance.
- Support of programmes of civic associations working with children and youth in their spare time.

## **The Concept of Educational Activities Aimed At Combating Extremism<sup>253</sup>**

This document has been drawn up as a summary topic in the field of education and is outlined in relation to the needs of the education of Romas, foreigners and migrants, and takes into account an issue of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The principal objective of all educational activities is to create a tolerant and multicultural environment at school and in educational facilities, emphasising practical application and the prevention of conflicts, to strengthen legal knowledge, to support ethnic equality, and to support the implementation of international directives, in particular EU Directive No. 23000/43/EC and the “Declaration Against Racism and Xenophobia on the Internet”, UN Directive No. A/52/469 Ad 1 on “The Decade of Education Towards Human Rights” including assignments arising for the MEYS from the National Programme of Preparing the Czech Republic for Accession to the EU.

On the basis of the aforementioned document it is clear that the issue of extremism and the activities relating of education to human rights, democratic citizenship and tolerance, is considerably emphasised within the Czech educational system. However, there are still some exceptions. A headmaster is fully responsible for instruction at his/her school and it is necessary to point out the fact that sometimes “education” is suppressed and training is given priority. Such “problems” are mainly at secondary apprentice schools and apprentice centres.

## **8. Conclusion**

No considerable changes were recorded within the basic extremist movements. In 2001, as in the previous year, the Czech extremist scene saw both right-wing and left-wing extremist tendencies. However, a qualitative shift was made towards political and political-ideological activities.

In 2001, right-wing extremists continued in striving to establish a regular political party. An essential role in this process was played by the Patriotic Front and non-parliamentary Patriotic Republic Party which, at the end of the year, was transformed into a political party – the Right Alternative, which is led by people related to a non-registered organisation, the National Resistance, or to a no longer existing civic association, the National Alliance. The year 2001 also confirmed the changes seen in the tactics of right-wing extremist skinhead movement members in 2000, mainly in consistently conspiring with the aim of concealing their activities. It was also the year when this Czech scene, after German Blood&Honour had been banned, tried to take over that organisations’ “monopoly” in organising concerts. The Czech Republic became temporarily a target country, mainly for right-wing extremist from Germany, as well as from other countries. For left-wing extremists, mainly for anarcho-autonomists, the year 2001 was a year of transformation. This scene developed and further distinguished while an essential role was played by the Czechoslovak Anarcho-Autonomous Federation and the militant Antifascist Action. During the course of the year new groupings were established, for example the radical Antifascist Group within the

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<sup>253</sup> The task contained in point 6 of the Annex to Government Resolution No. 903 was completed by elaborating the Concept of educational Activities Aimed At Combating Extremism. The Government approved this document by its Resolution No. 169 dated 20 February 2002.

Federation of Social Anarchists or the platform “Global Resistance! and Stop the War! These are organisation which do not repudiate violence.

Compared with 2000, the number of right-wing extremist skinhead movement supporters increased in 2001 by approximately 23% and the number of anarcho-autonomists, after a previous sharp growth of 62 %, by about 19%. However, it should be stressed that these are only approximate numbers of the supporters of movement monitored and not the numbers of their members, so called hard cores ready to commit violence as their programme. The highest number of persons inclining towards such extremist ideologies was in the capital city of Prague, followed by North Moravia, South Moravia, and North Bohemia, where the largest number of crimes with an extremist context were committed.

In 2001, as in previous years, crimes with an extremist context were mostly committed by right-wing extremist skinheads and left-wing extremist anarcho-autonomists. Mainly skinhead movement supporters committed crimes motivated by racial and national hatred followed by situational conflicts in which citizens from the majority society who did not have any links to extremist movements and did not profess any extremist ideology were offenders. The victims of such crimes were especially members of the Roma population and dark skinned foreigners

The development of crime with an extremist context saw an increase in the number of such crimes, namely by 24.2%. This rise was accompanied by a higher number of crimes solved and a lower detection rate (-0.1%). In terms of composition of crimes, there were crimes of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms (241) and crimes of defamation of a nation, race or conviction (86). However in comparison with 2000, particularly serious crimes were committed in the year monitored: a racially motivated homicidal attempt and a murder with a racial context. At the same time two of crimes monitored having been committed by members of the Czech police, were recorded.

In terms of state administration bodies, the year 2001 was a year of targeted conceptual and systematic activities made apparent by adopted repressive, preventative and educational measures. Their aim was a strong approach against all racial and other extremist manifestations, and to make racial attack minimal, punishment of those political parties and civic associations which, in any manner, supported racism and related extremist ideologies, elimination of racial discrimination, further training of civil servants and policemen, education in human rights, increasing the quality of instruction at schools of all levels, and consequently to reach a change of climate in the society connected with higher tolerance. Strict measures adopted by the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech police were supported by activities carried out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs focused on enforcing all-round social prevention without which it is impossible to combat extremism.

With regard to the development of the current international situation after the terrorist attacks committed against the United States, the risk related to the extremist scene came into fore after 11 September 2001. This scene represents a classical environment for a possible rise in the activities of political terrorism and therefore the Ministry of the Interior will continue to pay permanent attention to it and penal proceeding bodies will consistently punish any activities arising from this scene in a manner of criminal repression. The danger of extremist ideologies has recently been shown by the increasing activities of ultra right-wing political parties in Europe, in some cases accompanied by relative successes politically.



## ANNEXES

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- [Annex No. 10:](#) Foreign Contacts of the Czech Extremist Scene Recorded by the Czech Police in 2001. Map
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[Annex No. 12:](#) An Analysis of an“Overview of Cases Comprising the Suspicion of Criminal Offences or Misdemeanors of an Extremist Subtext, Including Cases Motivated by Racial or National Intolerance, or Committed by Supporters of Extremist Groups Regardless of Their Final Criminal Classification”

[Key to Criminal Offences According to the Sections of the Criminal Code](#)  
[Key to the Maps](#)