

Jan Papánek Papers

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Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of George Kovtun

Collection Summary

Title: Jan Papánek Papers

Span Dates: 1917-1967

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1939-1948)

ID No.: MSS75544

Creator: Papánek, Jan, 1896-1991

Extent: 3,400 items ; 10 containers plus 1 oversize ; 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in Czech, with English, French, German, and Slovak

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Czechoslovak diplomat and United Nations delegate. Correspondence, reports, speeches, photographs, and other material pertaining primarily to the democratic Czechoslovak government-in-exile during World War II and the immediate postwar years, including Papánek's service in the United Nations and the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948. Includes papers of Edvard Beneš, Jan Masaryk, and T. G. Masaryk.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Beneš, Edvard, 1884-1948. Edvard Beneš papers. 1938-1945.
Clementis, Vladimír, 1902-1952--Correspondence.
Feierabend, Ladislav, 1891-1969--Correspondence.
Firkušný, Rudolf, 1912-1994--Correspondence.
Hromádka, J. L. (Josef Lukl), 1889-1969--Correspondence.
Masaryk, Jan, 1886-1948. Jan Masaryk papers. 1941-1948.
Masaryk, T. G. (Tomáš Garrigue), 1850-1937. T. G. Masaryk papers. 1917-1962.
Odložilík, Otakar, 1899-1973--Correspondence.
Papánek, Jan, 1896-1991.
Ripka, Hubert, 1895-1958--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Sforza, Carlo, conte, 1872-1952--Correspondence.
Thompson, Dorothy, 1893-1961--Correspondence.
Voska, Emanuel Victor, 1875-1960--Correspondence.
Zatkovich, Gregory Ignatius, 1886?-1967. Gregory Ignatius Zatkovich papers. 1944.

Organizations

United Nations.

Subjects

Communism--Czechoslovakia.
Democracy--Czechoslovakia.
World War, 1939-1945--Governments in exile.

Places

Czechoslovakia--Foreign relations--United States.
Czechoslovakia--Politics and government--1918-1938.
Czechoslovakia--Politics and government--1938-1945.
Czechoslovakia--Politics and government--1945-1992.
United States--Foreign relations--Czechoslovakia.

Occupations

Diplomats--Czechoslovakia.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Jan Papánek, Czechoslovak diplomat and United Nations representative, were given to the Library of Congress by Jan Papánek in 1988.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Jan Papánek is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jan Papánek are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Jan Papánek, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1896, Oct. 24	Born, Brezová pod Bradlom, Slovakia, Austro-Hungarian Empire
1916-1919	Served with the Czechoslovak Legion, fighting with the Allies on the Italian front
1921	Graduated, Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques, Paris, France
1922-1924	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague, Czechoslovakia
1923	<i>Published La Tchecoslovaquie: l'histoire politique et juridique de sa création. Prague: Orbis.</i> Graduated, Institute des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Paris, France Graduated, Académie de Droit International, The Hague, Netherlands LL.D., Sorbonne, Paris, France
1925-1926	Attaché, Czechoslovak Legation, Budapest, Hungary
1926	Married Betka Papánek
1926-1931	Secretary, Czechoslovak Legation, Washington, D.C.
1928	LL.D., Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia
1932-1935	Parliamentary secretary to Edvard Beneš, then minister of foreign affairs
1935-1939	Czechoslovak consul, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1939-1941	Personal representative of Edvard Beneš, president of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile
1942-1946	Minister plenipotentiary, director of Czechoslovak Information Service, New York, N.Y.

- 1945 Published *Czechoslovakia: World of Tomorrow*. New York: International Universities Press
Czechoslovak delegate, United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco,
Calif., and member, coordinating committee that created the charter of the United Nations
- 1946-1948 Ambassador, Czechoslovak delegate to the United Nations
Member, Economic and Social Council, United Nations, 1946-1947, acting president of council in
1947
- 1948 Dismissed from the United Nations by the communist government of Czechoslovakia
Testified before the United Nations Security Council denouncing communist takeover of
Czechoslovakia
- 1948-1950 Member, Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions, United Nations
- 1948-1985 Founder and president, American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, New York, N.Y.
- 1949-1951 Lecturer, graduate school of government, New York University, New York, N.Y.
- 1950-1953 Commentator on the United Nations, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.
- 1958 Published *Desat rokov*. Chicago: Československá Národní Rada Americká.
- 1991 Awarded Tomáš G. Masaryk Order, first class, by Václav Havel, president of Czechoslovakia, for
distinguished service to democracy
- 1991, Nov. 30 Died, Scarsdale, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jan Papánek (1896-1991) span the years 1917-1967 with the bulk of the material dating from 1939 to 1948. During the Nazi occupation of his home country, Papánek served as the representative of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in the United States. The immediate postwar years were dedicated to service at the United Nations. The papers are in Czech, Slovak, English, German, and French and are organized alphabetically by name of person, topic, organization, or type of material. Oversize items are listed together at the end of the container list.

Papánek spent his career working for either the democratic movement or the democratic government of Czechoslovakia. He worked closely with Edvard Beneš and Jan Masaryk, both of whom have papers in this collection, primarily material they left with Papánek after visiting the United States during World War II. The Beneš papers are the more extensive and include correspondence, speeches, reports, examples of anti-Nazi propaganda, including a political tract written by Heinrich Mann to be smuggled into Czechoslovakia in seed packages, and a group of telegrams and correspondence with Franklin D. Roosevelt and other world leaders on the occasion of the German occupation of Prague in March 1939. Jan Masaryk's papers include secret reports on Czechoslovak political actions and notes and letters, including notes on his 1944 meeting with Roosevelt and correspondence with Dorothy Thompson. The papers also contain correspondence between Tomáš G. Masaryk and Edvard Beneš as well as photographs and an extensive collection of printed matter on T. G. Masaryk.

Papánek, as the representative of the exiled democratic government of Czechoslovakia during World War II, received confidential reports of conditions and actions in the "Protectorate" and Slovakia. Many of these reports are in this collection as are several concerning the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948. His United Nations material primarily concerns communist activities in Czechoslovakia and Papánek's dismissal from his United Nations position in 1948. A transcript of Papánek's extensive oral history made in 1951 is located in a biographical file. Prominent correspondents not previously mentioned include Vladimír Clementis, Ladislav Feierabend, Rudolf Firkušný, Josef Lukl Hromádka, Otakar

Odložilík, Hubert Ripka, Carlo Sforza, and Emanuel Victor Voska. Of special interest is a confidential report written by Gregory Ignatius Zatkovich and addressed to Edvard Beneš concerning the wartime activities of Carpatho-Ukrainians.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, organization, or type of material.

Container List

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BOX 1	German-language letters, Jan.-June 1939 Letters to Beneš, most sent from within the United States, but some also from Europe and South America. Includes two letters from William S. Schlamm offering cooperation.
BOX 1	German-language propaganda, 1939, undated Anti-annexation propaganda mailed to Germany by German emigrants living in France, samples sent to Beneš. Includes a seed package with political tracts enclosed, one by Heinrich Mann.
BOX 1	German occupation of Prague, Czechoslovakia, Mar. 1939 Telegrams, drafts of telegrams, and other correspondence from Beneš to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Joseph Avenol, Georges Bonnet, Emil Hácha, Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, 1st earl of Halifax, Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Molotov, and others. Includes Roosevelt's original letter of response. In French, English, and Czech.
BOX 1	Invitations to lecture, 1939 Invitations from schools and associations answered by Beneš's personal representative, E. B. Hitchcock. Letters regarding radio address, 1938-1939
BOX 1	Letters regarding radio address, 1938-1939 Letters of thanks and encouragement written after Beneš's first radio address in the United States. Mostly in English.
BOX 1	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1939-1942, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (4 folders)
BOX 1	Philosophical/political essay, 1939 By an anonymous Jewish writer. Sent from Prague, Czechoslovakia, to Beneš, May 1939. In Czech.
BOX 1	Press releases and biographical sketch, 1942-1945 Mostly speeches released in the United States. In English.
BOX 2	Publishers and books, 1939-1941 Correspondence and news clippings concerning books by and about Beneš.
BOX 2	Requests for autographs, 1939-1942 (2 folders) Mostly from the United States. In English.
BOX 2	Situation reports from America, 1939-1945 (3 folders) Reports on Beneš's political action in America during World War II. Sent to Beneš in London, England, and after May 1945, Prague, Czechoslovakia. In Czech and Slovak.
BOX 2	Speeches and statements, May-June 1943, undated (3 folders) Drafts and final texts of speeches and statements by Beneš in the United States.
BOX 2	Beneš, Vojta, 1939-1945, undated (2 folders) Correspondence, mostly between Vojta Beneš and Papánek, and some printed matter. In Czech.
BOX 3	Biographical material of Papánek

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BOX 3	Autobiography, 1951 (3 folders) Transcript of Papánek's oral history concerning his life and career to 1948. Main topics include Edvard Beneš, World War II, and Czechoslovak political activities in the United States. In English.
BOX 3	Certificates, 1935 <i>See also Oversize</i> Appointment as Czechoslovak consul in Pittsburgh, Pa., and official recognition by the United States as consul.
BOX 3	Diary for 1934 Entries from Jan. 10 to May 18. In Slovak.
BOX 3	Clementis, Vladimír, 1946-1947, undated Letters from Papánek to Clementis, deputy foreign minister of Czechoslovakia. In Slovak.
BOX 3	Committee for Free Germany, 1943 Memorandum of 22 Sept. on political impact of Committee for Free Germany. Unnamed source. Sent to London, England for Edvard Beneš. In English.
BOX 3	Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia, 1948, undated Unsigned Czech report, unsigned English-language confidential report, and unsigned letters in Czech, one with an English translation, from Prague, Czechoslovakia, to Papánek.
BOX 3	Czech-American political groups, 1940-1941, undated Items relating to their activities. In Czech and Slovak.
BOX 3	Czechoslovak Action Abroad, 1939, undated Documents pertaining to the beginning of Czechoslovak Action Abroad, Edvard Beneš's first political organization during World War II. The American branch was formed in Chicago, Ill. Some of the notes and drafts were written by Beneš. In Czech and English.
BOX 3	Czechoslovak border rectification, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> Memoranda from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with recommendations for rectification of Czechoslovak frontiers after World War II. Includes a detailed map. In English.
BOX 3	Czechoslovak Economic Council, 1941-1942 Items related to the council based in New York, N.Y.
BOX 4	Czechoslovak Information Service, 1938-1942, undated Documents from the founding of the Czechoslovak Information Service in the United States. In Czech.
BOX 4	Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1941 Documents prepared by the Foreign Ministry of Edvard Beneš's exile government, including political surveys and confidential memoranda to Czechoslovak diplomatic offices. In Czech and English.
BOX 4	Czechoslovak reparation demands, 1945 <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders) Czechoslovak restitution and reparation demands after World War II. In Czech and Slovak.
BOX 4	Feierabend, Ladislav, 1943-1944 Items relating to Feierabend's visit to the United States in 1943, including his report as minister in the government of Edvard Beneš to premier Šrámek about his negotiations in Washington, D.C. Mostly in Czech.
BOX 4	Firkušný, Rudolf, 1942-1945, undated Correspondence and memoranda concerning Czech pianist Firkušný and his legal status in the United States. In Czech and English.
BOX 4	German Protectorate and Slovakia Confidential reports from various sources in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. Mostly in Czech.

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BOX 5	1940, Mar.- 1942, June, undated (3 folders)
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BOX 5	Hostovský, Egon, 1943-1945, undated Items concerning the work of Hostovský, a Czech writer, including his memorandum on the cultural situation of Czech exiles in America during World War II.
BOX 5	Hromádka, Josef Lukl, BOX 5 Correspondence with Edvard Beneš, 1942 Beneš to Hromádka concerning political philosophy; Hromadka to Papánek with copy to Beneš concerning his discussion with Hermann Rauschning. In Czech.
BOX 5	Correspondence with Papánek. In Czech, 1939-1944, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Masaryk, Alice G., 1931-1935 Letters to Edvard Beneš. In Czech.
BOX 5	Masaryk, Jan BOX 5 Letters and notes, 1941-1948 Notes about the political situation during Masaryk's visit to the United States in October 1941, notes from his meeting with Franklin D. Roosevelt on 4 Feb. 1944, letters to Papánek, and correspondence with Dorothy Thompson. In Czech and English.
BOX 5	Miscellany Correspondence, speeches, statements, news clippings, and printed matter. In Czech and English.
BOX 5	1940-1942 (2 folders)
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BOX 6	Secret reports, 1942-1945, undated Reports to and from Jan Masaryk on Czechoslovak political actions and views. Most of the reports are deciphered despatches. Includes reports during the 1945 United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, Calif. In Czech.
BOX 6	Masaryk, T. G. BOX 6 Correspondence, 1930-1931 Letters to Edvard Beneš, one with a situation report attached. In Czech.
BOX 6	Printed matter Pamphlets, essays, articles, lectures, etc. concerning T. G. Masaryk. In various languages.
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BOX 8	Photographs, 1926-circa 1948 <i>See also Oversize</i> T. G. Masaryk, Edvard Beneš, Jan Masaryk, and others. Photographs include an autographed portrait of T. G. Masaryk dated 13 Sept. 1926.
BOX 8	Posse, Amelie, 1948 Letters from Posse, a Swedish writer, to the former private secretary of Edvard Beneš describing her last meeting with Beneš in Aug. 1948, shortly before his death. Translated from Swedish to Czech.
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BOX 9	Reports and speeches, 1941-1943 Reports and speeches by Ripka, including his confidential report of 7 Jan. 1942 about the foreign policy of Edvard Beneš's government. In Czech and English.
BOX 9	Šeba, Jan, Czechoslovak minister to China, 1941, 1948 Correspondence and newspaper clippings. In Czech, Slovak, and English.
BOX 9	Sforza, Carlo, Feb.-Mar. 1943 Correspondence between Edvard Beneš and Sforza. In French.
BOX 9	Slovak National Alliance, 1939-1941, undated (3 folders) Activities of the organization in the United States. Primarily in Slovak.
BOX 9	Slovakia, confidential report, 1943 Sent by Vladimír S. Hurban, Czechoslovak envoy extraordinary, to Cordell Hull, American secretary of state, 5 April. In English.

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BOX 9	State Department, 1943, undated News clippings, reports, and notes. In English and Czech.
BOX 10	United Nations
BOX 10	Diplomatic dispatches, 1946-1948 Secret dispatches between the foreign ministry in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Papánek, the Czechoslovak United Nations delegate. In Czech.
BOX 10	Dismissal of Papánek, 1946-1948 Items documenting his dismissal in March 1948 from the United Nations. In English and Czech.
BOX 10	Security Council meeting concerning Czechoslovak crisis, 17 Mar. - 26 May 1948 Bound volume of verbatim records of meetings concerning Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia in Feb. 1948.
BOX 10	University professors, 1941 Protest of Nazi actions by Czechoslovak educators in exile.
BOX 10	USSR, 1943-1944 (2 folders) Confidential reports and other material from the Czechoslovak Information Service in the United States to Edvard Beneš and the Czechoslovak embassy in Washington. Includes discussion of American attitudes towards the Soviets. In English, Czech, and French.
BOX 10	Voska, Emanuel Victor, 1939-1943 Primarily letters concerning Voska's offer of intelligence activities to Edvard Beneš's government. Mostly in Czech.
BOX 10	Zatkovich, Gregory Ignatius, Feb. 1944 Confidential report addressed to Edvard Beneš. Zatkovich, as leader of Carpatho-Ukrainians in the United States, described wartime activities of his ethnic group. In English.
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