

# AGRÁRNÍ VĚSTNÍK

## REPUBLIKÁNSKÉ STRANY VE VELKÉ BRITANII

Dr. Josef Černý, Czechoslovak Leader, Dies. Londýn, 10. Prosince 1971

Dr. Josef Černý, a member of the prewar Czechoslovak Parliament, Minister of the Interior of the Czechoslovak government and political leader in exile, died on December 7 at Goldwater Memorial Hospital in New York City. He was eighty-six years old.

Dr. Černý was born on February 28, 1885 in Nepolisy, Bohemia. He attended Vienna University and received his doctorate in Law from Charles University, Prague, in 1911.

It was before the First World War when he was still a student at Vienna University that Dr. Černý became interested in politics - and especially in the activities of the Czech Agrarian Party whose main program was the social advancement of the peasant masses. The Agrarian Party was the leading Czech party at the Vienna Parliament. At that time, Černý became a member and cofounder of the Party's academic youth organization.

In 1918, when the Czechs and Slovaks founded an independent state, the Agrarian Party delegated Dr. Černý to the Prague Revolutionary Parliament. He served as a member of Parliament during the twenty-year existence of prewar democratic Czechoslovakia, which is also called the Masaryk Republic.

In 1934, Dr. Černý became Minister of the Interior. At that time, the pressure and subversion of Hitler's German Reich against Czechoslovakia had become extremely dangerous in the agitated Sudeten area. Dr. Černý built an excellent administrative system and police force to assure order through democratic procedures. This administrative system helped to preserve Czechoslovakia as an exemplary democratic country even in her most difficult days.

After the 1938 Munich sellout, Dr. Černý tried to preserve national unity and stability in dismembered Czechoslovakia.

When the Nazis occupied the truncated country, Dr. Černý took a strong stand against the occupation, retired from public life and became part of the anti-Nazi underground. With complete disregard of their political affiliations, he gave financial and moral support to the families whose members had either lost employment, were in prisons and concentration camps or had been executed by the Nazis because of patriotic activity. From the very beginning of the war, Dr. Černý believed in an Allied victory and inculcated his belief in the members of the underground in order to keep their morale high.

When at the end of World War II, the Soviet armies advanced into East Central Europe, the agrarian leaders of these countries who had suffered under the Nazi occupation were again persecuted, this time as notorious anti-communists. At that time, the Soviet scheme was supported by some non-communist politicians who were ignorant of the ultimate aim of the Soviet Union and local communists.

Dr. Černý was jailed but the court that tried him refused to condemn him. Even during those days of terror and political confusion there were still brave patriots in responsible positions who opposed the trend. Letters supporting Dr. Černý were sent to the court by the survivors of Nazi persecution testifying to his patriotism and his courage during the occupation.

In stating its grounds for acquittal, the court attested: "...Dr. Černý was an apostle of uncompromising patriotism and of social and political peace; he demonstrated his love for the Czechoslovak Republic in our nation's most difficult days."

After the communist putsch of 1948, Dr. Černý left Czechoslovakia with his wife, stayed in Germany and France for awhile and finally settled in the United States - first, in Washington, D. C. and later in New York.

In exile, Dr. Černý renewed the activities of the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party, became a Vice President of the International Peasant Union, a member of the Council for a Free Czechoslovakia and, later, a member of the Committee for a Free Czechoslovakia. He was also a member of the Czechoslovak delegation to the Assembly of Captive European Nations and a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America.

Dr. Josef Černý was the only surviving member of the prewar government of Masaryk Czechoslovakia living in the free world.

Surviving is his wife, Helena (daughter of Antonin Švehla who, as Prime Minister of the Republic and a very close friend of T. G. Masaryk, built the solid democratic organization of the young Republic and is recognized as one of Europe's outstanding statesmen) and his kin in Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Josef Černý měl značný podíl na vnitřním vývoji čs. politiky a na budování svobodného demokratického státu v době před Mnichovem. Významná byla jeho činnost i na poli mezinárodním doma i v exilu - v Mezinárodním Agrárním Bureau, International Peasant Union, Assembly of Captive European Nations..

Osobně velmi skromný, člověk ušlechtilého charakteru; svojí objektivností, smyslem pro spravedlnost získal si uznání všech..

V hlubokém smutku skláníme se před Majestátem smrti velkého syna českého národa, politika a Evropana, člověka zlatého srdce vzácného přítele, který dlouho bude živ v našich srdcích..

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