

Nonetheless, as a text intended primarily for use in teaching the comprehension of Russian expository prose, particularly if short reading selections are introduced earlier than they are in the book, this work may be viewed as an attractive addition to the materials now available for use in Russian reading courses.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Slavic Review (39, no. 1 [March 1980]: 149) has printed a "review" of my book, *Czechoslovakia's Role in Soviet Strategy*, by Edward Taborsky, former secretary of the late Dr. Edward Beneš, the second president of Czechoslovakia, who made a reputation for himself as propagandist, the art of which he practiced already during World War I. Professor Taborsky has selected four statements out of context and claims that these are examples of "unjust assessments" and my "anti-Beneš bias." Since the Editor has sent my response to the charges back to me with a request to shorten it, I have to urge the reader to read the "quotes" in their context and to look up the documentations in the book. The documents speak for themselves and not for the author.

The source of the first "quote" is a U.S. government document. The whole sentence reads: "While the Polish government was in favor of the Allied invasion of the Balkans and established contacts with the Hungarians and Rumanians desiring to surrender their countries to the Western Allies, Beneš was opposed to the Anglo-American occupation of Central Europe and the Balkans." Biddle, the U.S. representative in London, suggested that "the Czech source may be the instrument of Russian propaganda," since the views expressed corresponded with that of Stalin. (See *Czechoslovakia's Role in Soviet Strategy*, note 41, p. 320.)

The second "quote" is contained in the following sentence: "Had the Anglo-Americans occupied the area of Central Europe, Beneš would have had to resign at the end of the war, as he had promised to do, and the peoples living in former Czechoslovakia, the Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Hungarians, Ruthenians and Poles would have had an opportunity to express their views on what kind of political and economic system they wanted to have." The source here is a British government document containing portions of Beneš's own memorandum to the British government of April 18, 1941, in which he had promised to "after the war at once submit to the regulation of a democratic Czechoslovak Constitution." The British rejection of Beneš's theory of continuity of his presidency, the issues of state boundaries and Sudeten Germans, and so forth have been discussed in detail in my book (see pp. 116–25). The documentation is very extensive and includes a secret British document declassified only in the 1970s.

The third "quote" refers to Beneš's own "Memoirs," in which he mistakenly writes that at Teheran "Poland and Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary and Yugoslavia were placed in the Soviet [war] Zone." He writes, furthermore, "I therefore regarded the Teheran Conference as a great success and I moulded all my further discussions in Moscow as well as my later ones in London and our negotiations with the Americans to fit the results of Teheran. This also covered the advance of the Soviet Army into Central Europe and on to our territory which I regarded as a certainty."

The fourth "quote" is from the record of the meeting of Beneš with top Soviet government officials, including Stalin, held in Moscow in December 1943. During those discussions Beneš, among other recommendations, advised Stalin to occupy Poland and Hungary by the Soviet armed forces. Moreover, he singled out several individuals for execution after the war. The source is clearly identified as Dr. Jaromír Smutný, Beneš's own Chancellor, who was present at these high level conferences in Moscow. The Smutný papers are available in an English translation by Professor Vojtech Mastny.

The reader is advised to look up the documentation in my book, published by University Press of America, and judge for himself whether the information contained in United States and British government documents, Beneš's and his Chancellor's writings are merely the "author's interpretations." The price of the new and corrected edition is \$11.50.

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Professor Taborsky does not wish to reply.

FROM THE EDITOR:

In a review of Maria Danilewicz Zielińska's book *Szkice o literaturze emigracyjnej* (*Slavic Review*, 38, no. 4 [December 1979]: 718), the author was mistakenly referred to as Maria Danilewiczowa. We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience to Dr. Zielińska.

In the September 1980 issue, Robert A. Rothstein was referred to as associate professor of Slavic linguistics. Professor Rothstein's correct title is Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Head of Department, University of Massachusetts. We regret the error.