

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET ARMY

In the memorable year 1975 the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, together with the whole progressive world, celebrates the 30th anniversary of the victory over German fascism, which has planned to dominate the world. The famous Prague operation of the Red Army which saved the capital of Czechoslovakia, as well as the major part of Bohemia and Moravia from destruction by a swift and successful manoeuvre, went down in history as the last phase of the second world war in the European battle-field. By this manoeuvre the Soviet Army mopped up the last pockets of Nazi resistance. When the first Soviet tanks arrived in Prague early morning on May 9, 1945, the city was staunchly fighting against multiple superior forces of the well armed German troops. The arrival of the Soviet tanks signified the rescue and liberation of the city, where a spontaneous uprising against the Nazi occupation forces had broken out on May 5. The uprising was headed by the Czech National Council that acknowledged the programme of the National Front Government residing at Košice. 30,000 men and women took part in the fighting on the Prague barricades against a large group of German troops who tried to suppress the uprising and to fight their way through Prague over the Vltava bridges westward. Simultaneously the Czech countryside was up in arms against the occupants. The Prague operation saved many lives and material values in Czech lands from destruction. This fact was of utmost importance for the postwar reconstruction of Czechoslovakia and for the building up of the people's democratic state.

The blood jointly shed in the fighting against nazism has forged firm bonds of friendship between Czechoslovak and Soviet peoples. The presence of the Red Army in the territory of Czechoslovakia made it possible for the Czech and Slovak peoples to build up the Republic under the guidance of their Communist Party according to their ideas.

The May uprising may be regarded as a basic event of the second phase of the national democratic revolution in Czechoslovakia, as an organic continuation of its first phase, the Slovak national uprising. The uprising of the Czechoslovak people actively destroyed the Nazi occupation machinery and thus helped create revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the people and eliminated the political and economic positions of the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie.

With gratitude the Czechoslovak people remember the help rendered by the Soviet Union and its glorious army during the second world war in the struggle against brutal domination of Hitler's occupants.

The victory over fascism has also opened up the road to a free and unprecedented development of Czechoslovak science. The beginnings of its activities were not easy. The progressive forces have suffered heavy losses under the occupation. But thanks to the painstaking and constant care of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia for the development of science, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and shortly afterwards also Slovak Academy of Sciences were founded in 1952 as top research institutions according to the example of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences has followed the line of progressive traditions of the Czech Royal Society of Science and other scientific institutions which had been founded in the territory of Czechoslovakia in the past. Academician Zdeněk Nejedlý who took great credit for its foundation, became its first president. In a relatively short period of twenty years, thanks to the incessant generous support of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the government of our Republic the Academy has

become a large research organisation with the capacity and concentration of highly qualified scientific workers never before achieved in the previous scientific life in Czechoslovakia. At present the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (including the Slovak Academy of Sciences which is its organic part and the top national scientific institution in Slovakia) numbers 14,000 workers (including 4,000 in the Slovak Academy of Sciences) who are employed in 75 institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and in 60 institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Since its foundation the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences directs systematic attention to the training of scientific workers and along with universities represents the main centre of scientific education.

An indispensable prerequisite for a successful scientific work is an intensive international cooperation in science. The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences is well aware of this fact and therefore organizes its foreign scientific relations. A decisive role in these activities is played by the close cooperation with the science of other socialist countries, primarily with the science of the Soviet Union. The first scientific contacts were established as early as in 1953, shortly after the Academy was founded. The Academy of Sciences of the USSR was one of the first institutions with which the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences concluded a concrete bilateral agreement. Such agreements have been also concluded with the academies of other socialist countries. Since 1962 the multilateral scientific cooperation among the academies has been successfully developing.

It is due to the efforts of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences that Czechoslovakia has become one of the most important centres of international scientific meetings. The institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences annually organize 50—100 scientific congresses, symposia, seminars with international participation. The advances of scientific research and publication as well as utilization of results obtained are propagated by the Academy by its publication activities. Up to now the publishing houses of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Slovak Academy of Sciences have released almost 5,000 titles of book publications. At present they have been publishing more than 100 specialized scientific journals in Czech, Slovak as well as world languages.

An important role in the advancement of individual scientific disciplines, in publicizing the scientific results as well as in discovering new scientific talents is played by 73 specialized scientific societies affiliated to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, numbering 22,000 members. The Czechoslovak Society of Parasitology holds a significant place among them.

Within the framework of Czechoslovak science also Czechoslovak parasitology has made considerable advances during the past 30 years and achieved remarkable results. The key impetus to the post war development of parasitology in Czechoslovakia has been given by the Soviet parasitology that extended a constant flow of information to Czechoslovak parasitologists thus enabling them to contribute to the astounding growth of this discipline. In the forthcoming years of our journal we shall gradually bring surveys of these contributions of Czechoslovak specialists to various fields of parasitology.

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