

Barbora Buzássyová, Back to Africa speaking Slovak?: “Third World” students at the Preparatory Language Centre in the city of Senec during the 1960s

Summary: Back to Africa speaking Slovak?: “Third World” students at the Preparatory Language Centre in the city of Senec during the 1960s

As a consequence of decolonization processes and the revival of the doctrine of socialist internationalism the Soviet bloc turned its attention to “Third World” countries in line with its broader geopolitical strategy. Besides the traditional method of committing emerging states with a promise of economic assistance, the Soviet higher education program for foreigners became an important medium through which the Soviets positively self-represented their model of society. In the course of the 1960s in the USSR and several Eastern European states, there were established educational institutions exclusively designed for the training of foreign students. However, the arrival of hundreds of “exotic strangers” provoked a number of complications in hitherto rather isolated Czechoslovakia. In an effort to minimize the possible “culture shock”, every foreign student was bound to attend a one-year language course in preparatory language centres. Apart from their educational function, these institutions also played the role of so-called “assimilation camps”. The teachers were not only responsible for preparation of traditional lectures, but they also organized free-time activities for students. The leisure activities were carefully designed to acquaint foreigners with Czechoslovak culture, and in particular to present socialism as a progressive and advanced force. In spite of constant struggle to gain control over the selection procedure for suitable candidates, systematic efforts to adapt “Third World” students to living conditions under “real socialism” and a mass solidarity and anti-racism image campaign, the internationalist rhetoric reached its limits expressed by the racial stereotypes that still held sway among the Czechoslovak public. In particular, African students from former British colonies felt defrauded, and after the negative experience with racially-motivated conflicts often went back to their homelands with an anti-Communist stance. Nevertheless, despite the undoubtedly complicated pattern of cultural coexistence for foreign students coming from the impoverished social background or politically destabilized countries of Africa, Asia or Latin America, Czechoslovak scholarship presented a unique opportunity for social mobility, and sometimes even verification of the “rightness” of their variety of socialism.

Translated by Melvyn Clarke

Adéla Jůnová Macková, Export of experts. Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and Iraq in the 1960s

Resumé

Studie se zaměřuje na jeden z aspektů československých kulturních dohod, jež byly from 1950s uzavírány s tzv. "Third World Countries". Součástí těchto dohod bylo vzdělávání zahraničních studentů a to jak formou stipendií pro studium v Československu, tak vysíláním československých vědců do zahraničí. Vedle vysokých škol byli vědci vysíláni rovněž z Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CAS). Studie se zaměřuje na vědce CAS, kteří pracovali v Iráku in 1960s. Zohledněna je praxe vybírání vědců v rámci CAS i zprostředkovatelská práce podniku zahraničního obchodu – Polytechny, která měla na starosti zprostředkování kontaktů mezi iráckými a československými vědeckými institucemi a zároveň též technickou stránku celé výměny. V této době vyslala CAS do Iráku sedmnáct vědců, z nichž tři vyjeli za účelem vědeckého poznání této země a studia v knihovnách, třináct přednášelo na vysokých školách v Bagdádu, Basře a Mosulu a jeden se zúčastnil tříměsíčního vzájemného československo-iráckého vědeckého výzkumu.

Summary: Export of experts. Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and Iraq in the 1960s

This study focuses on one of the elements in Czechoslovak cultural agreements that were entered into with 'Third World Countries' from the 1950s. These agreements included training for foreign students, both in the form of grants for studying in Czechoslovakia, and the dispatch of Czechoslovak scholars abroad. These scholars were sent not only from higher education institutes, but also from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS). This study focuses on CSAS scholars who worked in Iraq in the 1960s, taking into account the practice of selecting scholars within the CSAS and the agency work of the Polytechna foreign trade bureau, which was in charge of contacts between Iraqi and Czechoslovak research institutes, as well as the technical side of the entire exchange. At that time the CSAS sent seventeen scholars to Iraq, three of whom went in order to systematically gather knowledge of this country and to study at its libraries, thirteen to lecture at higher education institutes in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul and one to take part in three months of mutual Czechoslovak-Iraqi scholarly research.

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Kamila Mádrová, Development and Strategy of the Czech Technical University's Contacts with Third World Countries in the 1960s

Resumé

Předkládaná studie se zabývá kontakty Českého vysokého učení technického se zeměmi třetího světa v 60. letech 20. století. 60. léta jsou v Československu nazírána v kontrastu s léty padesátými jako čas velké politické a kultury svobody, snížení mezinárodního napětí a otevírání hranic. Výzkumné otázky definované v příspěvku jsou studovány na základě právních předpisů, koncepcí a cestovních zpráv, náležejících do agendy zahraničních vztahů rektorátu ČVUT a též materiálů Vysokoškolského výboru KSČ v Praze. Studie se zabývá následujícími otázkami: Jak připravoval rektorát ČVUT strategie pro zahraniční cesty a jak tyto strategie odpovídaly politické situaci. Kdo byl vybrán z profesorského sboru a přizván k zahraničním cestám a expertizám. Jak se kontakty s třetím světem utvářely, jaká byla jejich frekvence na jednotlivých fakultách a jaká byla pozice ČVUT ve srovnání s jinými vysokými školami. Co obsahovaly cestovní zprávy, jak v nich byly popisovány profesní a společenské aspekty. Příspěvek rovněž prezentuje proces přípravy a schvalování zahraničních cest a zahrnuje jako doplnění obecných tezí specifické příklady zahraničních pobytů univerzitních profesorů.

Summary: Development and Strategy of the Czech Technical University's Contacts with Third World Countries in the 1960s

This paper deals with the contacts the Czech Technical University had with third world countries in the 1960s. The 1960s in Czechoslovakia are seen, in contrast to the 1950s, as a time of great political and cultural freedom, an easing of international tension and the opening up of borders. The research questions defined in the paper are studied on the basis of legal regulations, concepts and travel reports within the foreign relations agenda of the CTU Rectorate and also materials created by the University Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in Prague. The paper defines the following questions: How the CTU Rectorate prepared strategies for foreign journeys and how these strategies reflected the political situation. Which lecturers were chosen and invited to go on foreign journeys and expertise stays. How these contacts with third world countries were established, how frequent they were in each faculty and what position the CTU had in comparison with other universities. What the travel reports contained and how they described the professional and social aspects. The paper also presents the process

for the preparation and approval of foreign journeys, and to complement the general theses, it includes specific examples of foreign journeys taken by university lecturers.

Translated by Hynek Zlatník

Adéla Jůnová Macková, “I did not get the subjects I was expecting, so I am over my head in work preparation.” Correspondence and final reports of experts sent to Iraq during the 1960s

Summary: “I did not get the subjects I was expecting, so I am over my head in work preparation.” Correspondence and final reports of experts sent to Iraq during the 1960s

It is the aim of this publication to present CSAS archive material relating to the issues surrounding the dispatch of Czechoslovak experts to Iraq in the 1960s and to interpret it so as to show both the benefits and the obstacles involved. Some of the documents have been preserved in the Collection of CSAS Foreign Reports fond, in which final reports from the foreign stays of experts teaching at higher education institutes or carrying out scientific research abroad are arranged chronologically and geographically. For this publication letters were selected which present the discussions between employees and the CSAS Institute of Electrical Engineering administration over extensions of their attachments at foreign universities and three final reports from experts working at universities in Baghdad and Mosul.

Translated by Melvyn Clarke