

Letter from Peter Prídavok concerning the position adopted by Slovakian refugees on the Hague Congress (4 May 1948)

Caption: On 4 May 1948, journalist Peter Prídavok, President of the Slovakian National Council in London, sends to Winston Churchill, Honorary Chairman at the Congress of Europe in The Hague, a letter in which he affirms his support for the proposal for a federal Europe and his commitment to the democratic independence of the Slovak nation.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Mouvement européen, ME. Préparation du Congrès de l'Europe devant se tenir à La Haye du 07 au 10/05/1948, ME 1184.

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SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL IN LONDON

May 4, 1948

The President,
Congress of Europe,
The Hague,
Palais de la Paix.

Sir:

I take the opportunity of expressing, in the name of the Slovak National Council in London, my best wishes for a full success to the Congress of Europe on the occasion of its opening.

The Slovaks follow with great interest and sincere sympathy the movement for the federalization of Europe. They believe and hope that a solution of the European problems in the framework of a Federated Europe will bring freedom to the Slovak nation and give it a chance to organize its life on a truly democratic basis. The Slovak people hope that the federalization of Europe will reestablish their independence and their Slovak State, of which they were deprived by the co-ordinated violence of Soviet and Czech imperialism in 1945.

The Slovaks have never renounced their own State, and today they are the only nation in Europe without a State of their own. They will never acquiesce either into the domination of the Czechs or into the domination of the agents of Soviet imperialism.

In 1946, 70 % of the Slovak electorate cast their vote for the anti-Communist parties. Nevertheless, today they are ruled and deprived of their democratic rights by a minority which by no means represents their will, their aspirations and interests.

This minority could not maintain itself in power in Slovakia but for the aid of the Communists and of the Czech police forces. And this violation of the basic democratic right of our people was accomplished, February 26, 1948, under the presidency and with the passive assistance of M. Edward Beneš.

In the name of this people, deprived of the possibility of addressing its good wishes to this Congress through their freely elected delegates, I wish to this Assembly a complete success of its work and of its manifestations.

Please accept, &c., Peter Prídavok, President