The report is based on the author’s wartime diary and his personal experiences, as well as on information provided by friends and acquaintances who were first-hand participants. The heart of the presentation is a discussion, within the context of the international situation, of President Beneš’s fundamental ideas and activity which pointed the way. Despite Beneš’s initial successes on behalf of the restoration of the pre-Munich republic, the final result was defeat.

The tragic road followed by Beneš is sketched in the most important part of his diplomatic career which began after the first capitulation of 1938 and ended with the second capitulation at the negotiating table in Moscow in 1945. But, as the author shows, the cause of this defeat can be found above all in the irresoluteness and politically naive activity of certain members of the Czechoslovak exile government in London.

LANGUAGE AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NEUHAUS SPRACHZUNGE IN SOUTHERN BOHEMIA

Horst Kühnel

Up to 1945—46, one of the most ancient dialects of the whole Bavarian dialect area was spoken in the Neuhaus Sprachzunge [linguistic neck] (NhSZ). The conservative character of the NhSZ is documented not only in phonetic respects but also in vocabulary. Linguistic-geographical connections can be established beyond the immediately neighboring areas as far as southern Moravia, southern Bohemia, and Lower Austria. They clearly show the influence of the Witigonen and the bishopric of Passau on southern Bohemia and the NhSZ. Of particular interest are the linguistic-geographical ties with western Bohemia and the Upper Palatinate, which complement the residual north Bavarian phonetic features and prove that during the medieval colonization period, settlers also came from the Upper Palatinate into the NhSZ.

ALL AROUND THE BASKET IN THE SUDETNENLAND

Hertha Wolf-Beranek

The development of such seemingly peripheral material objects of the peasant economy as the basket, whose use goes back to the Germanic era, is by no means an arbitrary one. A cartographic presentation of the material produces some very interesting insights. The use of certain basic types in the Sudetenlands was determined by the facts of settlement history and by tribal membership. Map 3 illustrates the use of winnowing baskets in the Upper German area as opposed to large, tall baskets in Central Germany in the early flailing process. Maps 4 and 5 show how such cultural innovations as the introduction of the potato had a decisive influence on basket-weaving.