

THE ATTITUDE OF THE SLOVAK PEOPLE'S PARTY TOWARD THE JEWS DURING THE SECOND CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Anti-capitalist and anti-Semitic slogans asserted themselves in the program and political practice of the conservative-clerical Slovak People's Party. Particularly susceptible to such slogans were the petty bourgeoisie and peasantry, who were more or less threatened by the evolving economic situation.

When as a result of the Munich Agreement the Slovak People's Party assumed governmental power in Slovakia, the anti-Semitic tendencies exploited for many years as a means of propaganda acquired the character of an official policy of the Slovak government. Initially the anti-Semitic measures taken by the Slovak government were but part and parcel of interventions based on the principles of an anti-democratic orientation. At this time no concrete steps had yet been taken that were aimed, directly or indirectly, against Jews living in Slovakia. Anti-Semitic tendencies found their chief expression rather in the official atmosphere and in practical politics. By issuing moderately formulated basic principles, Slovak governmental authorities endeavoured, however, to check the impact of the extreme radicalism which certain Slovak political circles and nationalist elements among the local German minority advocated.