

# FROM THE WORK OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE IN LONDON

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The author of this report was a member of the state council of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London during the Second World War. Working closely together with Prime Minister Šrámek and Minister Hubert Ripka, he took part in confidential deliberations and had access to documents that were available only to a few Czechoslovak politicians.

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.